

Archaeological Pub Crawl ENGLAND

WITH DR. JAMES BRUHN



FAR
HORIZONS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL TRIPS

Updated February 2026





ENGLAND: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PUB CRAWL

with Dr. James Bruhn

Explore Prehistoric Stone Circles, Glorious Abbeys, Hadrian's Wall, and Medieval Castles in Remote Areas, with Meals and Overnights in Traditional Pubs and Inns.

Traveling across Britain, one could purely focus on its architectural and historical marvels. But how much fun would that be, and how much of a real picture of the place would it provide? Precious little, say we. To understand the British spirit, one must understand British spirits, which is to say, "Beer". From the rich mixture of civilizations that have flourished in this land has emerged the true essence of English life: the village pub. Here, ales, bitters, porters, stouts, and other hop-and-barley brews abound in such profusion as to daunt even the hardest tippler.

Long the bastion of all that is good and true in British culture, the pub occupies the place today that it has held for many centuries. In England's villages, this is the spot where society is glued together daily through the medium of beer. To fully appreciate Britain's heritage, one must experience the pubs, the heart of the country's cultural identity. In recognition of this, we propose to put Britain's past in proper perspective by interspersing visits to extraordinary ancient sites with stops at as many noteworthy pubs as prudence and capacity will allow.

Far Horizons Archaeological and Cultural Trips proudly presents a cultural pub crawl through England that offers a rare chance to see, when we are not within the confines of a public house, many historic and archaeological sites that few visitors manage to find. We will visit prehistoric stone circles and chambered tombs, walk in the footsteps of Roman armies along Hadrian's Wall, and savor the view from battlements of medieval castles in remote and beautiful areas of Britain.

As we journey from the harsh mountains and strong bitters of the northwest to the soft rolling hills and gentle ales of the southeast, we will come to understand how the history of the country has shaped the landscape and how the perception of both history and the landscape has been shaped by a daily few pints.

All meals and overnights will be in carefully chosen traditional and unspoiled pubs and inns, where we will be able to touch pint mugs with the local people while savoring delicious regional delicacies, washed down with the region's best representatives of the British brewer's art.

Daily Itinerary



Day 1

Arrive in Newcastle-on-Tyne, Black Gate and Castle Keep

Arrive in Newcastle-on-Tyne. In the afternoon, enjoy a specially arranged tour of the castle, constructed in 1080 using earth and timber by the eldest son of William the Conqueror, Robert Curthose, and rebuilt of stone between 1168 and 1178. The Castle Keep was the principal strongpoint of the Castle and the living space for the commander of the garrison. It displays many important features, including the late Norman chapel and the well, which is nearly 100 feet deep, allowing fresh water to be provided to the castle both during a siege and in times of peace. Built between 1247 and 1250 during the reign of King Henry III, The Black Gate was the last addition to the medieval Castle defenses. Consisting of an arched passage, with what are thought to be guard chambers on either side, it was the gatehouse of the barbican, a walled, defensive entrance passage for the Castle's North Gate.

Overnight for the next two nights in The Fleece Hotel in Ruleholm, a charming inn built along Hadrian's Wall that blends traditional country charm with comfort and luxury. (D)

Day 2

Hadrian's Wall, Housesteads Fort & Vindolanda

Today, we will walk along Hadrian's Wall, the northernmost frontier of the Roman Empire and part of UNESCO's Frontiers of the Roman Empire. At the Roman garrison of Housesteads Fort, the foundations of most of the buildings and defenses are well preserved. We will see the small, heated rooms of the commandant's house and the latrines (once with running water) used by the soldiers. A key military post on the northern frontier of Britain, Vindolanda has produced spectacular finds. Ongoing excavations here are led by Dr. Andrew Birley, and he (or a member of his staff) will give us a private tour, along with a 'see and touch' viewing of artifacts found during excavations. Vindolanda's museum contains unique, organic remains such as leather shoes and thousands of writing tablets recording daily life almost two thousand years ago – letters from soldiers, a birthday party invitation to the fort commander's wife, requests for payment, and many artifacts that display a significant record of everyday life in the Roman Empire. Drive through the scenic countryside to Carvoran Roman Fort, where the Roman Army Museum presents an authentic tribute to Rome's extraordinary military legacy.

Stop by the Milecastle Inn, a traditional pub serving home-cooked food and fine 'real ales' for lunch on our own. (B/D)



Daily Itinerary *(cont'd)*

Day 3

Durham Cathedral and Castle, Barnard Castle, Black Sheep Brewery

This morning, we will enter the monumental Durham Cathedral, regarded as one of the finest examples of Norman architecture in England and designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, along with nearby Durham Castle, which faces it across the Palace Green. The cathedral was constructed between 1093 and 1133 to house the shrine of St. Cuthbert, a venerated preacher in the 7th century who was responsible for the spread of Christianity in the North of England. We will see the Open Treasure Exhibit in the museum located in previously hidden spaces within the Cathedral Cloister. Here, 2,000 years of history are on display. Then it's on to Barnard Castle, a ruined Norman castle built in the 12th century.

Time permitting, in the afternoon, we will visit Black Sheep Brewery to taste their hardy ales.

Overnight in York for two nights. (B/D)



Day 4

York Minster, Barley Hall, York City

York is a city that first gained prominence under the Romans. Known as the city of Eboracum, York was the second city of Roman Britain beyond London. After the fall of Roman Britain, York became the capital of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Northumbria. This came to an end when the Vikings attacked and settled in York, renaming the city Jorvik. We will visit the beautiful York Minster, a Norman building sitting on the ruins of Roman York, and Barley Hall, a reconstructed medieval townhouse. We will examine the still-standing Roman walls, and for the adventurous, take the time to walk the more than two miles of the beautifully preserved fortifications. Wander through the maze of twisting, narrow lanes of The Shambles, arguably the best-preserved medieval street in the world. With overhanging timber-framed buildings, some dating back as far as the fourteenth century, the area was awarded the title of the most picturesque street in Britain in the Google Street View Awards.

Lunch will be in one of York's many medieval pubs. (B/L/D)



Daily Itinerary *(cont'd)*



Day 5

Fountains Abbey, Ripon Cathedral

Begin the day in Fountains Abbey, one of the largest and best-preserved Cistercian monasteries in England. The religious complex was founded in 1132 by 13 Benedictine monks from St Mary's in York seeking to live a devout and simple lifestyle. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the remains of the abbey are enclosed within the 18th-century designed landscape of Studley Royal Park. There will be time to walk through the park's grounds, one of the best-surviving examples of a Georgian water garden in England. Our lunch stop will be at The Water Rat, a quirky public house in Ripon serving a selection of 'real ale.'

After lunch, we stop at nearby Ripon Cathedral to view its blend of architectural styles and its many unique features from the Anglo-Saxon crypt, including the oldest built fabric of any English cathedral.

Continue to Stamford and The George Hotel, our home for the next two nights. (B/D)

Day 6

Richard III Visitor Center, Flag Fen, Castle Rising Castle

The announcement in 2012 of the discovery of King Richard III's burial under a parking lot stirred history enthusiasts. Archaeological excavation uncovered not only the friary of Grey Friars but also a battle-scarred skeleton with spinal curvature. The so-called "hunchback king" had idiopathic scoliosis, a curvature of the spine developed in his teenage years. Richard III was the last English king to die in battle, during the Battle of Bosworth, and the wounds found on his head show that he was stabbed repeatedly. These injuries are consistent with some near-contemporary accounts of the battle. Our morning drive takes us to Leicester to the Richard III Visitor Centre.

In the afternoon, we move on to King's Lynn and Castle Rising Castle, one of the largest, best preserved, and most lavishly decorated keeps in England, surrounded by 20 acres of mighty earthworks.

Our final stop will be at Flag Fen, where residents in 1350 BC fortified their meadows from neighboring communities by constructing a long defensive wall using hundreds of thousands of timbers. (B/D)



Daily Itinerary *(cont'd)*

Days 7

King's College Chapel in Cambridge, Verulamium

Founded in 1209, Cambridge is the second-oldest university in the English-speaking world and the world's fourth-oldest surviving university. Our exploration of Cambridge will include the King's College Chapel, containing the largest fan vault in the world and some of the finest medieval stained glass. Our lunch spot is The Eagle, originally opened in 1667 and Cambridge's main student and faculty hangout.

Then it's on to St. Albans, named for the first Christian martyr in England and the successor of the Roman city of Verulamium. Here, explore a Roman theater that is unique to Great Britain, part of the 3rd century city walls, and, time permitting, the museum with its splendid collection of mosaics, wall paintings, and recreated Roman rooms.

Overnight at The White Hart in Dorchester-in-Thames. (B/D)



Day 8

Uffington White Horse, Avebury, West Kennett Long Barrow & Silbury Hill, Salisbury Cathedral

Begin our day by viewing the Uffington White Horse, cut into the white chalk that lies under the grassy slopes. Frozen in mid-stride, the famed image was carved into the chalky hillside at least 2,000 years ago and even today dominates the surrounding countryside.

Then it's on to the stone circle and henge at a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Avebury, so large that a medieval village was built inside it using broken standing stones.

Nearby, West Kennett Long Barrow is a shared tomb where we can enter the chambers and examine the prehistoric architecture. Nearby Silbury Hill is the largest man-made earthwork in Europe.

End the day in Salisbury Cathedral, the finest example of Early English architecture in the country. Built almost entirely in the 13th century, the final structure boasts the tallest spire and the largest cloisters in England. Salisbury Cathedral owns one of only four surviving copies of the Magna Carta, signed in 1215. Sunlight filtering through the windows of the cathedral's Chapter House, where the Magna Carta is displayed, will add a mythical touch when looking at the beautifully rendered Latin text written on the aged parchment.

Overnight for the next three nights in Salisbury. (B/D)



Days 9

Bath: Roman Baths, Royal Crescent; Stonehenge

Bath, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, developed around natural hot springs and has been an important town since before the Romans. A legend tells of Prince Bladud, father of King Lear, who caught leprosy and, when banished from court, lived as a swineherd in the marshlands. One of the pigs also contracted leprosy but was cured after wallowing in the mud near the springs. Prince Bladud did the same, and he, too, was cured, and when he became king, he founded the city. Romans built a temple here around 50 AD and dedicated it to Sul, a Celtic god, and Minerva, the Roman goddess of healing. They also built a public bath, which was supplied by the hot springs.

After viewing the Roman Baths, drive through the Royal Crescent, one of Bath's most iconic landmarks. It was designed by John Wood the Younger and built between 1767 and 1775. This impressive landmark forms a sweeping crescent of 30 Grade I Listed terrace houses and is without a doubt one of the finest examples of Georgian architecture anywhere in the UK.

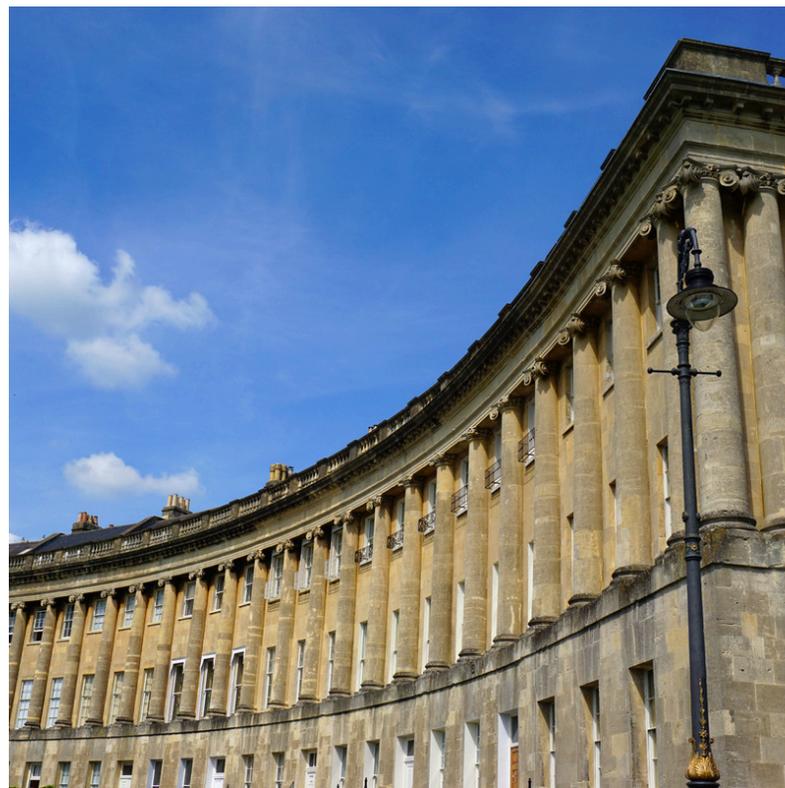
After lunch in a local pub, drive to Stonehenge, the most popular archaeological attraction in Britain. The huge sandstone monoliths that make up this Neolithic monument formed a ceremonial center oriented towards the summer solstice and other astronomical points. Most theories suggest that it was used as an agricultural calendar, though recent work shows that it was connected to a wider spiritual landscape, including the stone circle at Avebury. (B/D)

Day 10

Maiden Castle, Cerne Abbas Giant, Old Sarum

Maiden Castle is 4,000 years old and one of the largest and most complex prehistoric hill-forts in Britain. After viewing this huge fortress, see Cerne Abbas Giant, a 150-foot-tall image of a man carved into a chalk hillside, and traditionally seen as the Iron Age representation of a Celtic god. Recent research, however, suggests its creation was the result of 17th-century graffiti artists portraying an indecent Oliver Cromwell.

After lunch in The Giant, a former coaching house in the heart of Cerne Abbas, we move on to Old Sarum. This settlement began as an Iron Age British hill-fort known to the Romans as Sorviodunum, then became a Roman and Saxon town, and finally a Norman fortress and cathedral. As a key town in the ancient Saxon kingdom of Wessex, it was important for the Normans to control this site. Because of this, Henry I of England, son of William the Conqueror, used the site as a royal residence for much of his reign. The settlement was abandoned in 1219 when the bishops moved to New Sarum, now Salisbury. (B/D)



Daily Itinerary *(cont'd)*

Day 11

Winchester Cathedral and Great Hall, Fishbourne Roman Palace

Drive to the historic city of Winchester, where we will see its awe-inspiring Cathedral, one of the largest in Europe, with the longest nave and greatest overall length of any Gothic cathedral in Europe. Then walk to Winchester Castle, where the only building still standing is the Great Hall—where King Arthur's Round Table supposedly hangs, and the first parliament was held. Lunch will be in the King Charles, a beautiful country pub nestled amid Hampshire countryside in the picturesque village of Kings Worthy.

Our last stop on this archaeological journey is a visit to Fishbourne Roman Palace. The remains were discovered by accident in 1960 and date back to the 1st century AD. Originally a military base during the time of the Roman Invasion, the complex grew into a magnificent palace.

Excavations uncovered the largest collection of in-situ mosaic floors in Britain. The palace, designed to demonstrate the power and grandeur of the Romans, is built on a massive scale, and the lovely mosaics demonstrate the luxury of the Roman lifestyle. On display is the largest collection of Roman mosaics in Britain, including the famous Cupid on a Dolphin, with Cupid sitting astride a dolphin with a trident in his hand.

Dinner and overnight at the [Radisson Blu Hotel](#), located near London Heathrow. (B/D)

Day 12

Depart England

Morning flights home. (B)

PLEASE NOTE: This is a sample itinerary that is typical of our trip offerings. In general, you can expect a very similar program, though days may be swapped depending on availability, opening hours, and other affecting factors.

Why Take This Tour?

Tour six UNESCO World Heritage Sites:
Hadrian's Wall, Durham Cathedral, Fountains Abbey, Bath, Stonehenge, and Avebury

Experience a private tour of Vindolanda Roman Fort with the director of excavations

Learn about 'real ale' with a tour of a brewery

See the original Magna Carta in Salisbury Cathedral, signed by King John in 1215

Enjoy meals and overnights in traditional British pubs and inns

Maximum of 6 participants

NOTE: This can be your own tour on your desired dates with a minimum of three friends.

Pre and Post Trip Extensions

Far Horizons offers pre or post extensions for many of our trips. We can also arrange extra nights at the arrival and departure hotel should you wish to arrive early or depart later.

Please contact us for details.



Tour Information

Pricing

For current pricing, please visit farhorizons.com and navigate to our trip page.

Inclusions

Price based on double occupancy and includes:

- Internal flights during the trip (if applicable/unless otherwise noted)
- The accompaniment of your scholar throughout the entire trip
- Local English-speaking guide
- Hotel accommodations (3 or 4 stars; or best available based in the area)
- Ground transportation
- Airport transfers for arrivals and departures
- Most meals as noted in the itinerary
- Entry fees to all included sites and museums
- Gratuities to guides, drivers, and restaurant and hotel staff
- Coordination for any private presentations or tours

Trip prices are based on a minimum number of participants. If this minimum number is not met, trip prices are subject to change. Should the prices need to change, Far Horizons will reach out to registered guests to discuss directly.

Single Supplement

Should a roommate be requested and one not be available, the single supplement will be charged.

Exclusions

- International round trip airfare
- A separate donation check of \$150.00 per person to a designated donation project
- Passport or visa fees
- Required vaccines or tests
- Airport or departure taxes
- Alcoholic drinks, beverages or food not included on set menus
- Excess baggage charges
- Personal tips and hotel incidental expenses
- Laundry or other items of a personal nature

Donation Checks

As a tour company that benefits from the cultural and natural riches of our destinations, we have a policy of donating to the scientific and cultural sites and projects which we visit. This has created a bond between Far Horizons and the academic and local communities that has helped us establish an extensive list of lecturers and contacts in each of our destinations. We ask that each participant donate to the noteworthy project we designate. The donation amount is \$150.00 per person. Note that the donation is required as part of your registration for the trip and that it is non-refundable.

Exchange Rate Fluctuations

Prices are based on currency exchange rates keeping below a projected level. While it is unlikely, if the exchange rates should change substantially, Far Horizons reserves the right to charge an additional amount to the trip cost.

Registration

A deposit of \$1000 per person is required along with your registration & health forms, which will be linked in the email confirmation you receive once you pay your deposit on our booking platform. Final payment is due 120 days before departure. Prior to departure, you will be sent a reading list and a tour bulletin containing travel information.



Cancellation

Cancellations received in writing at least 120 days before departure will receive a refund less a \$500 per person administrative fee.

Cancellations received less than 120 days before the departure date will not receive a refund. If for any reason you are unable to complete the trip, Far Horizons will not reimburse any fees. Upon registering for the tour, the purchase of travel protection with both trip cancellation and emergency evacuation is strongly advised. Links to recommended insurance policies will be included in the email you receive confirming receipt of your deposit.

Expectations During Travel

Our trips are designed for flexible, energetic people who like to be active, have a spirit of adventure and a positive attitude. We have designed this trip to be as comfortable as possible, while also aiming to visit some remote or unique sites that other companies do not attempt to include in their itineraries. There may be days where we have very long drives and the conditions of the roads may vary. Hotels and transportation in some remote areas may not be up to western standards. There may be times when no bellhops are available; please pack with the understanding that you need to be able to handle your own luggage at times. Sometimes we may be walking over uneven trails for a mile or more; hiking boots are strongly recommended. Not every meal will be haute cuisine and several lunches may be picnics or box lunches. By maintaining a flexible attitude we will soon be captivated by the beauty of the natural scenery, the hospitality of the local people, and the fascinating sites we will see. Your flexibility and patience will be appreciated.

Air Ticketing

International round trip flights are not included in the cost of the trip. If Far Horizons must change the trip dates or cancel the trip for any reason, Far Horizons is not responsible for any air ticket you may have purchased. Please send your complete air schedule as soon as you have it. NOTE: Please contact Far Horizons if you would like for us to handle your air ticketing.

Private Tours and Talks

The private tours of archaeological sites and talks by specialists are scheduled in advance and include a donation to each. Specialists working at these sites are excited about showing their work to interested enthusiasts. However, please be aware that there may be times when the director or a member of the staff may not be on site when our groups arrive due to other commitments.

Walking and Standing

Far Horizons expects all participants to be physically active and able to walk and climb independently throughout the full touring days. This includes walking over uneven terrain (uphill and downhill) for 2 miles or more at each site. You should expect to be on your feet for much of each day, averaging as much as 5 miles of walking per day. **As such, each participant should be able to walk unaided at a pace of 3 miles per hour for at least an hour at a time, and to stand unsupported for at least 60 minutes.** Bearing this in mind, we suggest that, if you have not already done so, you begin walking several miles every day, ideally including stairs and hills. If you have questions about your ability to keep up with the group or the strenuous nature of this trip, please contact the Far Horizons staff.



Travel Insurance

We strongly recommend that you consider purchasing travel insurance. Should illness or an unforeseen event force you to cancel your travel plans after your final payment or during your trip, it would be doubly unfortunate to incur a significant financial loss. Trip cancellation protection will enable you to be reimbursed for the loss of your payment if you are unable to travel for any of the covered reasons in the "Outline of Coverage" section, or should you have an accident or suffer from any medical conditions during the trip.

Far Horizons offers customized protection plans through Travel Insured International (a Crum & Forster Company) with the following benefits:

- Trip Cancellation and Trip Interruption for covered reasons
- Trip Delay
- Baggage Loss and Baggage Delay
- Emergency Medical Expenses and Emergency Medical Evacuation
- 24-Hour Accidental Death & Dismemberment
- 24-Hour Travel Assistance & Concierge Services
- Option to upgrade to 'Cancel for Any Reason (CFAR)

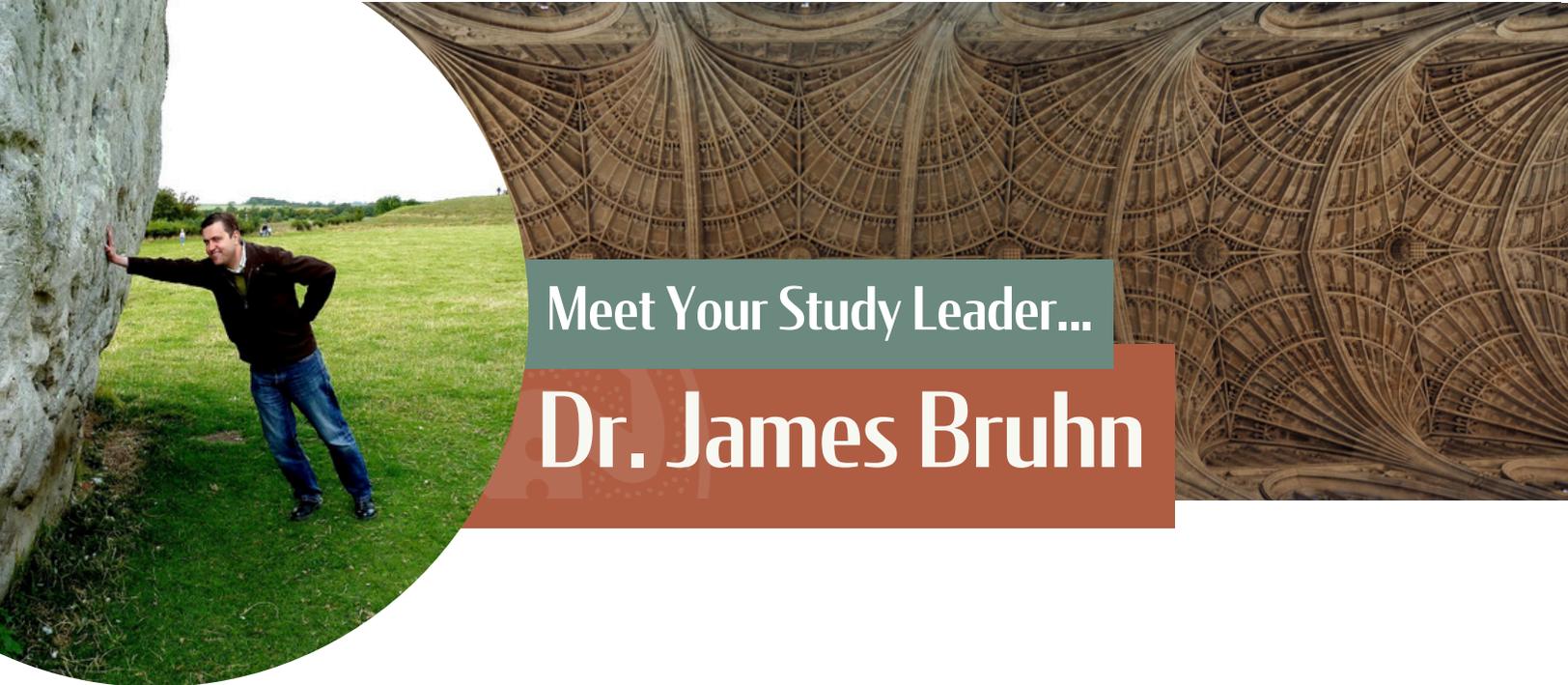
We recommend reviewing the language in detail so you are aware of specific parameters; Depending on the policy, to waive the Pre-Existing Medical Condition Exclusion or to upgrade to CFAR coverage, the plan must be purchased within 14 to 21 days of the initial trip deposit, full trip cost must be insured, and traveler is medically fit at time of plan purchase. Otherwise, coverage may be purchased at any time prior to departure.

To obtain a personalized quote and/or purchase a plan through Far Horizons/Travel Insured International, simply click [HERE](#). For specific questions regarding the Worldwide Protector Plan, please contact Travel Insured International's Customer Care Center at 1-800-243-3174 or by email at customercare@travelinsured.com, and refer to Far Horizons' account number: 54070.

Itinerary Changes

Changes in our itinerary, accommodations, and transportation schedules may occur while traveling. While we are committed to keeping as close to the published details as possible, sometimes it is simply not possible. Weather events, government affairs, or other factors out of our control sometimes come into play. A good book to read as well as patience, flexible attitude, and a sense of humor are essential.





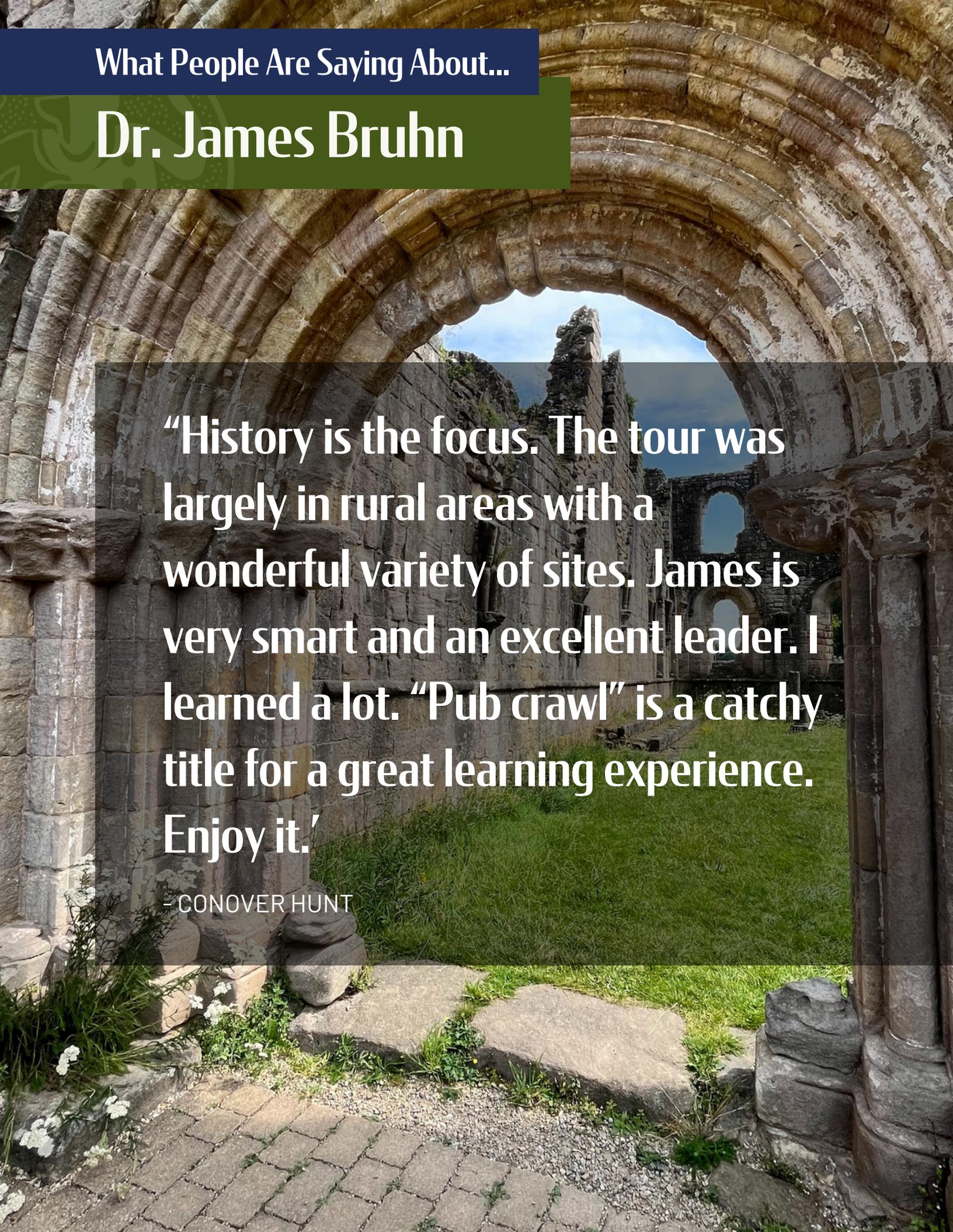
Meet Your Study Leader...

Dr. James Bruhn

James Bruhn received his BA in anthropology and history from the University of Colorado (Magna Cum Laude), and his MA and PhD in British Roman Archaeology from the University of Durham.

Dr. Bruhn has spoken at numerous academic conferences in North America and Europe, has authored a scholarly book on Roman Archaeology and has written book chapters in several scholarly publications including the *Seventy Great Inventions of the Ancient World* by Brian Fagan. He has excavated along the Antonine Wall and has tutored small groups on his specialty. Additionally, Dr. Bruhn has organized and been the speaker in several conferences about Roman Britain.



A photograph of a stone archway leading to a courtyard with other ruins. The archway is made of large, weathered stone blocks. In the background, there are more stone structures, including a tall, narrow tower. The ground is covered in green grass and some small white flowers. The sky is blue with some clouds.

What People Are Saying About...

Dr. James Bruhn

“History is the focus. The tour was largely in rural areas with a wonderful variety of sites. James is very smart and an excellent leader. I learned a lot. “Pub crawl” is a catchy title for a great learning experience. Enjoy it.’

- CONOVER HUNT

Journeys That Change Your Perspective

✦ **PHD-LEADERS: Your Scholar Is Your Travel Companion**

We place scholars at the heart of each journey, accompanying you throughout your trip. Our experts transform passive tourism into immersive intellectual adventures, offering insights into ancient civilizations through narratives shared over meals, during site explorations, and in evening discussions.



✦ **EXCLUSIVE ACCESS: Venture Beyond the Velvet Ropes**

We negotiate entry to restricted archaeological sites, private artifact collections, and untold cultural stories, creating experiences that transcend traditional tourism and reveal hidden historical wonders.



✦ **TRANSFORMATIVE TRAVEL: Artifacts to Epiphanies**

We believe the most meaningful souvenirs are invisible. Our expertly guided explorations of ancient sites catalyze deeper understandings of human ingenuity and cultural complexity, creating moments of clarity that forever change how you see past civilizations and contemporary society.

✦ **KINDRED COMMUNITY: Small Groups, Lasting Bonds**

We foster intimate interactions where archaeological passion creates unexpected connections. Through shared discoveries at remote ruins, animated discussions over local cuisine, and collective moments of wonder, our travelers forge friendships that extend far beyond the journey's end.



✦ **BESPOKE JOURNEYS: Crafted, Never Common**

We architect each trip as a masterwork of scholarly travel, balancing intellectual depth with comfort and discovery. Our itineraries reflect research, planning, and refinement to ensure every moment offers something meaningful for the curious mind that standard tours simply cannot deliver.

✦ **LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE: Countless Returning Travelers**

Our 40+ years of archaeological exploration and support for preservation have fostered a deeply personal relationship with our guests, resulting in an exceptionally high return rate that speaks to our individualized attention, and the lasting connections we create with each member of our travel family.



READY TO TRAVEL? ENGLAND

WITH DR. JAMES BRUHN

Email with Questions

journeys@farhorizons.com

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