



Exploring Methodist Heritage in England

John and Charles Wesley, along with George Whitefield, were visionary men who gave voice to an evangelical movement within the Church of England in the 1700s. They were moved by the complex social and economic issues of their day and sought to make the Gospel more accessible through preaching and services beyond the confines of traditional parish churches.

Illume invites you to journey to places where this vision came to life – to their birthplace, to Oxford where they studied and taught, and to various sites where early communities of Methodists formed and shaped society around them. Travel to places of great historical and religious significance is a powerful way to make church history come to life, to witness how visionary men and women brought fresh evangelical vitality to their communities, and to learn how the beliefs and practices of the Methodists continues to be relevant and vital for our own day.

Program Highlights

Meet Great Figures of the Methodist Church

Travel to Epworth to explore the birthplace and home of John and Charles Wesley and visit the rectory where their father was pastor. Learn about their childhood and travel with them to Oxford where they formed a group of students who met to pray and live a more intentional Christian life. Visit centers of preaching – such as Bristol on the west coast or in the lead mining area west of Durham.

Learn about the History of Methodism

In London, visit the newly renovated Museum of Methodism adjacent to Wesley's house and chapel to learn about the history of the movement and the achievements of its visionary leaders and ministers. Visit the New Room in Bristol, the first Methodist building and place where we meet George Whitefield who invited Wesley there to preach and Francis Asbury who was a pioneer in the formation of the Methodist church in America.

Explore English Spirituality

Wesley, an ordained minister of the Church of England, valued and treasured its architecture, liturgy and traditions even while expanding the reach of the Gospel in other venues. Visit historic cathedrals and sites where English spirituality and religious architecture took form – such as Lincoln, Durham, Salisbury and other sites. Explore historical and religious sites in London – such as St. Paul's and Westminster Abbey.

Suggested Venues

Illume collaborates with pastoral leaders to create unique, customized and thoughtful programs that embody the objectives and vision of group leaders for their program. Programs typically begin and end in London (facilitating international travel) and include a loop from London to Lincoln (Epworth), Birmingham, Bristol, Oxford and London.

There is a Wesley trail in the region of historic lead mines west of Durham that includes historic Methodist chapels and an opportunity to explore historic sites of English spirituality – such as Durham.

For groups wanting to combine heritage travel with cultural opportunities, excursions to the Cotswolds, Bath and Stonehenge, Windsor, Canterbury and other sites can be incorporated into itineraries.

Illume works with group leaders to create customized and unique programs with activities, visits and resources that support your vision and objectives. Call us to begin planning a program tailored to your constituency.

The way we travel the world is always changing but the reasons remain constant - to become citizens of the world, *leading and inspiring respectful and compassionate ways of life*. People who travel the globe begin a lifelong journey of worldly citizenship to gain valuable insight about themselves and the world around them through the discovery and exploration of cultures outside their own.