

Choir Residency – Durham Cathedral

11–21 July 2025

Walking in the steps of St. Cuthbert



Join the choir as we travel to Edinburgh, Scotland and Durham, England for an unforgettable experience. Durham Cathedral is one of England's oldest places of worship dating back to 995 as a place to house the body of England's famous saint Cuthbert. While in residence at the Cathedral, the St. John's Choir will sing evensong each day, ending the week with Eucharist and Evensong on Sunday.

Cost for the trip will be approximately \$3,750 per person based on double-occupancy room (either two twin beds or one full bed). Single supplement is available for \$1,250. *Actual cost may change based on the number of travelers.* Trip cost will include all in-country travel, accommodations, entry to excursions, all breakfasts, and a few lunches and dinners. Airfare to Edinburgh and from Manchester are not included, although we will arrange a group flight itinerary for those wishing to travel together.



The trip begins with three full days in Edinburgh, Scotland. We will stay at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel a few minutes walk from the Royal Mile, Edinburgh Castle, and St. Mary's Cathedral. All rooms are *en suite* and air conditioned.

A walking tour of the city and guided tour of Edinburgh Castle are arranged for all travelers. Adventurous (and fit!) members of our group may elect to hike nearby Arthurs Seat, an inactive volcano that affords some of the best views of the city.



Choristers will rehearse at St. Mary's Cathedral on Saturday afternoon.

Sunday will bring our first choral services with the St. John's Choir singing both morning Eucharist and afternoon Evensong services.

On **Monday** we will travel by coach from Edinburgh to Durham (approximately three hour drive). Upon arrival we will check into the Marriott Durham Hotel.

Choristers will walk directly to the Cathedral to settle in and prepare for the first evensong of the residence at 5:30. Pilgrims will enjoy an afternoon free to unpack and become familiar with the city environs.



Tuesday will begin with a guided tour of the Cathedral for all. The massive, Romanesque building is one of the most impressive of all the English Cathedrals. The shrine of St. Cuthbert has been a site of pilgrimage for over a thousand years. Following the tour, pilgrims will have plenty of time to explore the charming city, with many shops and cafes in close proximity to both hotel and cathedral.

On **Wednesday** we will travel to Hadrian's Wall and see Roman settlements. Dating to 122 A.D., the wall separated the Roman Empire's lands from the barbarians of the North, providing protection for Housesteads Fort, the most complete Roman settlement still existing in the British Isles.



Thursday will bring an all-day excursion to Alnwick Castle and Lindisfarne (Holy Island). The castle is a wonderful 14th century dwelling home to a stunning art collection. Alnwick was also a filming site for the Harry Potter films, and our treble choristers might even be able to participate in flying lessons! Lindisfarne was St. Cuthbert's original home. When Viking raids became relentless, the monastic community moved,

eventually settling in Durham. Cuthbert's remains were transferred to the Cathedral, and Holy Island became a site of pilgrimage very popular through the Medieval period.

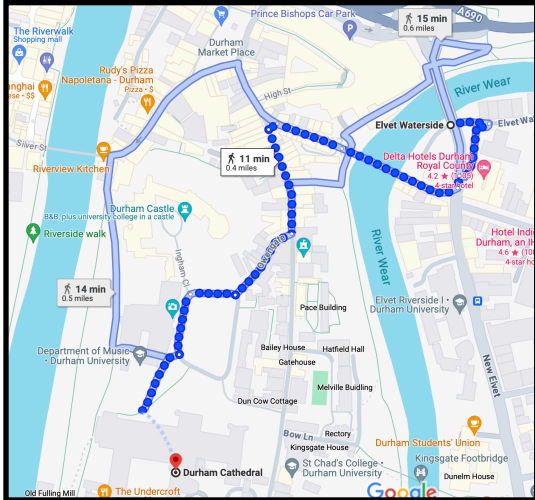
On **Friday** we will visit Durham University's highly respected Botanic Gardens and continue to enjoy our time in the city.

Saturday is a free day to enjoy shopping at the market or strolling the streets of the city.

Our final day, **Sunday**, will be full of services, both the morning Eucharist and our final Evensong. A farewell banquet at the hotel will cap the week.

On **Monday**, coach service will be provided for any wishing to travel to Manchester Airport for departures.





A Word of Caution:

The journey from hotel to Cathedral in Durham is a little less than half a mile, yet it is a steady climb. It is similar to the walk from Calhoun's on the River to the St. John's parking lot. The incline is considerably less steep than walking up Walnut Street, yet the overall elevation gain is the same. The route has wide sidewalks along paved streets lined with shops and cafes. You can arrange your own transportation (taxi or Uber), but this cost is not included in the trip price.



We enthusiastically invite everyone to join the choir on this pilgrimage to Edinburgh and Durham. For more information, please speak to Jason Overall or Eunjin Choi.