



W.G. Collingwood, "John Ruskin in his study at Brantwood," watercolor, 1881

**RUSKIN'S 200th
ENGLAND
May 10-18, 2019**

The greatest thing a human soul ever does in this world is to see something...to see clearly is poetry, prophecy, and religion, all in one. John Ruskin, *Modern Painters III* (1856)

Please join us on a special tour celebrating the life, work and legacy of John Ruskin (1819-1900) while retracing his footsteps in Britain.

This itinerary has been especially designed to pay tribute to Ruskin, the intelligent traveler in England. We will begin in Oxford, site of his university experiences and early inspiration for his love of medieval architecture, and the city where he would later be appointed Oxford University's first Slade Professor of Fine Art. There, in the superb Ashmolean Museum are major collections of the art created by Ruskin's protégés, the Pre-Raphaelites, as well as dozens of his own exquisite drawings and watercolors. After seeing these, we shall travel next to the great Victorian city of Birmingham in the English Midlands, the site of Ruskin's brilliant lecture "Of Kings Treasuries," and home to one of the world's superlative Pre-Raphaelite painting collections. Near Birmingham is the Wyre Forest, location of the thriving farm known as Ruskin Land, given to Ruskin by the Mayor of Birmingham in 1871.

Next, travelling further north, we shall visit Lancaster University, primarily to see the riches of his manuscripts, letters, and drawings that are housed in perpetuity in the Ruskin Library. Still further north, in the glorious Lake District itself, we will tour Grasmere, home of one of Ruskin's greatest inspirations, the poet William Wordsworth, before going on to Ruskin's home itself, Brantwood, which overlooks the marvelous glacial lake known as Coniston Water. Major events celebrating Ruskin's bicentenary will be held at Brantwood while we are there. We will be present for the dedication of the Van Akin Burd Library. Burd was, by general acclaim, the most important Ruskin scholar of the mid-late twentieth century. Jim Spates, who was Burd's close friend, will give a brief talk there about the significance of Burd's work in advancing Ruskin studies during a particularly low period and speak of that work's enduring importance. We shall also be at Brantwood for a unique bicentenary event, a traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony (if you have never attended one, it is one of the great experiences of life) arranged by Companion Shoji Sato

Following our Brantwood visit, after crossing the Pennine Hills, we arrive in Sheffield, the city where Ruskin, in the suburb of Walkley, located his St. George's Museum (most of his original donations are there). In Sheffield, we will visit The Ruskin Gallery, its collection of Ruskiniana one of the most important in the world.

Next we travel to Manchester, where we will hear a lecture on one of Ruskin's greatest texts, "Traffic"—on the importance not only of reading but of reading the *right* things—delivered in 1864 in Bradford. The following day, we sample the grandeur of Manchester itself, much of its Victorian architecture inspired by Ruskin, and home to yet another major collection of Pre-Raphaelite art and a major collection of Ruskin's manuscripts and letters in the John Rylands Library.

Throughout our journey, we will be greeted by distinguished Ruskin curators and scholars, each of whom will delight in showing their treasures to fellow Ruskinians. Also throughout, we will stay in hotels which are, themselves, the essence of Englishness. We will read Ruskin's works in the loci that inspired them, eat and drink well and enjoy the pleasures, as Ruskin would wish, of each other's company.

Do join us!

Jim Spates, PhD, Professor of Sociology Emeritus, Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Nicholas Friend, MA, FRSA, Director, Inscape Fine Art Study Tours Ltd.

DETAILED ITINERARY



The Author of Modern Painters

Friday May 10

- 12.30 Please meet for registration at the Randolph Hotel Oxford.
- 1.00 Opening lunch at *Randolph Hotel, Oxford* (favorite of the Ruskins); **Professor Jim Spates and Nicholas Friend** to give speeches of welcome.
- 2.30 *Ashmolean Museum* visit to see Pre-Raphaelite paintings, including a private visit to the Print Room with **Curator Colin Harrison** to see the Ruskin drawings and watercolours.
- 4.30 Arrive *Eastgate Hotel* for tea.
- 7.00 Dinner

Saturday May 11

- 09.00 Lecture on "Ruskin's Oxford" by **Nicholas Friend, Oxford alumnus and Companion of the Guild of St George.**
- 10.30 Short Introductory Walk featuring Oxford's famed Medieval architecture: from Ruskin's college, *Christ Church*, to the *Oxford Union Murals*. Led by **Nicholas Friend**



J. M. W. Turner, Christ Church College, Oxford

- 12.00 Lunch
- 1.00 Depart for *Birmingham*
- 2.30 Arrive **Birmingham Art Gallery** for tour of Pre-Raphaelite art with **Curator Victoria Osborne**
- 4.00 Tea
- 4.30 Short Victorian architecture walk of Birmingham, led by **Nicholas Friend**
- 5.30 Arrive **St Paul Hotel**
- 6.30 Dinner
- 8.00 Lecture: "Ruskin's 'Of Kings' Treasuries," first delivered in 1864: **Jim Spates**

Sunday May 12



Uncly's Farm, Bewdley

- 09.00 Leave for **Uncllys' Farm, Bewdley**
- 10.00 Arrive Uncllys' Farm, property of *The Guild of St. George*. Tour by **John Iles** and **Linda Iles**.

- 12.00 Lunch at Unclyls' Farm
- 1.00 Visit nearby **St George's Farm** and **Ruskin Woodlands**
- 3.30 Depart for *Lancaster*
- 7.00 Dinner in Lancaster
- Stay at *Lancaster Toll House Inn*
- 8.30 Lecture: "Ruskin : The Electronic Edition" by **Alan Davis** and **Roy Haslam**

Monday May 13



- 09.00 Leave for **Ruskin Library**, Lancaster
- 09.30 Arrive Ruskin Library for coffee and talk and introduction to the Ruskin Collection by **Curator Professor Sandra Kemp**
- 12.30 Lunch in Lancaster
- 2.00 Depart for *Keswick*
- 3.30 Tour of **Friars Crag** and **Keswick Bridge**, sites of Ruskin's earliest memories



The Ruskin Memorial, Friar's Crag

- 4.30 Depart for *Grasmere*
- 5.00 In Grasmere, private tours of **Wordsworth's Dove Cottage and Wordsworth Museum** led by **Curator Michael McGregor**
- 6.30 Dinner
- 8.15 Depart for *Coniston*
- 8.45 Arrive Coniston for three nights in *Black Bull Pub*.

Tuesday May 14

- 10.00 Visit **St. Andrew's Church** and **Ruskin's grave**
- 11.00 Guided tour of **Ruskin Museum**, led by **Curator Vicky Slowe**
- 1.00 Boat traverse via steam yacht, *Gondola*, to Ruskin's home, **Brantwood**



John Ruskin, "Brantwood" (watercolor)

- 1.30 Lunch at *Terrace Restaurant*, Brantwood

- 2.45 Welcome & Introduction to Brantwood by **Director Howard Hull**, followed by a tour of the house, including the special exhibition, “**Incandescence: Turner’s Venice,**” the display of Japanese *Mingei pottery & English potter Martin Miles Moore*
- 4.45 Ceremony of Dedication of the **Van Akin Burd Ruskin Scholars’ Library**. Address by **Jim Spates**
- 5.30 Drinks and dinner in The Terrace Restaurant
- 8.30 Return to the Black Bull Pub

Wednesday May 15

- 10.30 Return to Brantwood
- 10.45 – 12.00 At leisure to enjoy Brantwood house and estate
- 12.00 – 1.30 Lunch at the Terrace Restaurant
- 1:30 – 3.00 **Japanese Tea Ceremony** in honor of Ruskin’s bicentenary, led by the tea master Mr. Kimura and assistants of the *Urasenke Foundation*
- 3.00 – 4.30 **Mingei: The Japanese Folk Art tradition** and its connection to Ruskin. Talk by contemporary potter, **Tomoo Hamada** on the Mingei tradition.
- 4.30 – 6.00 Guided tour of the restored **Brantwood gardens and Estate** (originally designed by Ruskin and his cousin, Joan Severn), led by *Brantwood Estate Manager Dave Charles*.
- 6.00 **Return to Coniston** for dinner and overnight at the Black Bull Pub

Thursday May 16

- 09.00 Depart for *Sheffield*
- 12.30 Arrive in Sheffield for lunch. Welcome by Clive Wilmer, Master of the Guild of St George.
- 2.00 Visit to **Ruskin Museum, Walkley** led by Guild of St George Curator, **Ruth Nutter**



The Ruskin Gallery, Sheffield

3.30 Visit to **The Ruskin Gallery**, Sheffield, guided tour led by **Curator Louise Pullen**

5.00 Arrive *Leopold Hotel Sheffield*

7.00 Dinner

Friday May 17

09.00 Depart for Manchester

10.45 Arrive Manchester

11.30 Tour of the Ruskin holdings at **The John Rylands Library, University of Manchester**, led by **Steve Winterson, Head of Collections**

1.00 Lunch

2.30 Tour of the Pre-Raphaelite painting collection in **Manchester City Art Gallery** led by **Nicholas Friend**



Ford Madox Ford, "Work," Manchester City Art Gallery

4.30 Arrive *Midland Hotel, Manchester*

6.00 Lecture by **Jim Spates**: "Ruskin's 'Traffic': The Protest

- against Industrialization”
- 7.30 Closing Dinner
- 9:00 Review and formal goodbye with **Jim Spates** and **Nicholas Friend**
- Saturday May 18**
- 6:30 Breakfast
- 8.00 Depart for London Heathrow (4 hours) to catch flights for US participants, then into central London for UK participants.
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Cost

£2598: Includes: eight nights’ accommodation in three and four star hotels, all breakfasts, lunches, dinners with wine, private coach travel during the tour, all lectures, entry fees, services of tour managers, porters, and gratuities. No single room supplement. **Deposit: £400, due at time of booking.** Final payment due two months prior to start of tour.

Final Booking date for UK participants: *December 31, 2018*

Note: Every endeavour will be made to keep to the arrangements described in this itinerary. Any changes will be to a similar standard.

Note: The number of persons in the group will be strictly limited to 20.

TO BOOK: Read and complete the **Terms and Conditions** form attached to this email. You may pay the deposit by bank transfer to the bank account indicated on the booking form, or fill out that form and return via email to

nicholas@inscapetours.co.uk

or, if you wish to send by post, please address to:

Nicholas Friend

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