

UPDATE! - 2009 Science History Study Tour to Europe - Darwin and Evolution.
June 24 to July 4, 2009

We invite you to join us for our twelfth annual Science History Tour, which will focus on the 150th anniversary of the publication of the [Origin of Species](#), one of the most significant books ever to have been written, and the [200th anniversary](#) of the birth of its author, [Charles Darwin](#). This tour of England's midlands, Welsh borders and southwest will end with a couple of days in London.

We will gather on **Wednesday June 24, 2009** to begin the tour in Darwin's birthplace, the lovely old market town of Shrewsbury in the English midlands. The trip will end in London on **Saturday July 4**. Along the way we will study Darwin's work, his family, and their connections to the important families in science and industry in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. We will see his birthplace, his school, and the places in Malvern where he 'took the waters'. Then travel south through the Welsh borders and on to the counties of Devon and [Cornwall](#) to see the ports in from which he departed and arrived back from his famous journey around the world.

Additionally, historic homes and lovely gardens, the [Wedgwood pottery factory](#), (founded by Darwin's great-grandfather), tin mines and china clay, the enormous biosphere called the [Eden Project](#), places associated with scientists such as [James Joule](#), [Humphrey Davy](#), [Marconi](#) and many others, will all be along our route. Continuing to London, we will make visits to [Darwin's home in Kent](#) and to the [Natural History Museum](#) and the [Royal Institution](#), where [Davy](#) was appointed assistant lecturer in chemistry in 1801. Knowledgeable local guides will lead us on walking tours, and lectures will be given on scientific subjects by noted historians.

While our Science History Tour will not include this year's important Darwin Festival as part of the tour, those who are interested in extending their trip can add this on. The Festival is being held from July 5 - 10 in the lovely city of [Cambridge](#), where Darwin studied. Opportunities to hear distinguished lecturers (Sir David Attenborough; Janet Browne, a highly respected historian of science who wrote the definitive 2-volume Darwin biography; Martin Rees, the Astronomer Royal; Richard Dawkins etc.) and attend all kinds of special exhibitions and events will be available. You can choose to register for just events that interest you, or for the whole program. Registration for Festival events and accommodation bookings (possibly at Darwin's old college, Christ's) can be made through the Festival website at: <http://www.darwin2009.cam.ac.uk/>

As the \$/£ exchange rate is better than last year and the trip is shorter at 11 days, the price will be a value-packed \$2850 per person double occupancy. Single room supplement will be \$800. We can help with room-sharing arrangements - we have lots of people who do this. For those interested in making a longer trip, adding on some days before or after the tour offers the opportunity to visit places of personal interest. PLEASE NOTE: Many of our tour members receive funding from their school, college or district; please enquire from them early to see if this is available to you. This is a study tour and the subject

matter is highly relevant for teachers. Additionally, a tax deduction for part or all of the cost may be possible - check with your tax advisor.

Included in the trip cost are: all land transportation during the tour, hotel accommodation with private bathrooms in comfortable and interesting small hotels of at least 3* standard, all breakfasts and at least one other meal per day. Wine is often included with dinners. Also included are admissions to museums, lecture fees, and many incidentals. You will have a comfortably filled program with no hidden extras. Not included in the trip cost are: airfare to and from Europe, the cost of getting to Shrewsbury from your airport of arrival and from your last tour destination onwards, meals on your own during free time, personal expenditures such as laundry, drinks other than those provided, and travel insurance. Insurance is an important thing to consider, especially health insurance, and we strongly urge you to purchase it. Check your coverage to see if it is valid overseas; most (including Medicare) isn't.

Science History Tours is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization, so you pay only the cost of the trip. If you look for comparable trips to ours: in June/July, staying in comfortable, conveniently located hotels of at least 3* standard, and including nearly everything you need, you will find them to be significantly more expensive. Our trips should be compared for interest, unique visits and lectures, food and hotels with tours organized by the Smithsonian or other high-end operators whose trips cost a great deal more than ours - we ALWAYS get high marks for 'value for money' in our tour evaluations! We are proud to note that a lot of our tour members have traveled with us many times and have recommended us to their friends. Tour members are often teachers at the high school or university level, scientists or other professionals, and a more friendly, interesting and entertaining bunch would be very hard to find!

For answers to travel questions please e-mail Yvonne. In due course she will send travel bulletins to tour members, including tour updates, information on travel to and from England and EXACTLY how to get to the starting point of the tour. Train access to Shrewsbury from Manchester airport station, or from London Euston station is relatively simple. There are frequent trains and the journey in either case is not too long. If you use Dublin, Ireland as a hub (often a good choice), an onward flight to Birmingham might be the way to go. Trains between Cambridge and London are fast and frequent. Express coach service, especially to or between airports, is a convenient and also economical way to travel in England.

For pre-trip preparation, I can recommend Janet Browne's masterly biography of Darwin - two volumes, the first is '[Voyaging](#)' and the second is '[The Power of Place](#)'. Also, I am currently reading 'The [Reluctant Mr. Darwin](#)' by David Quammen, who is not a historian of science, but who focuses rather on some specific aspects of Darwin's life and the development of his theory, and contextualizes the controversies quite nicely. It is an easier read and would be good for interested students. Of course, there is a huge tide of Darwin material that has washed in over the last couple of years, so one is not short of reading material from magazines, journals and numerous books. Also, for the 'Complete Works of Darwin Online' go to: <http://darwin-online.org.uk/> For the chemists among us,

[Cambridge](#) claims to have the oldest continuously occupied chair of chemistry in Britain and its story is told in Mary Archer's book '[The 1702 Chair of Chemistry at Cambridge - Transformation and Change](#)'.

Sign-up will start in January. You will need to book your own air tickets to Europe, but we can give advice about this or recommend a helpful travel agent if you are an inexperienced traveler. Three hours of inexpensive graduate credit will be available for those interested. Teachers can get CPDUs free.

To sign up or for more information, contact Yvonne: ytwomey@mindspring.com or ytwomey@fnal.gov

For information about graduate credit, e-mail Lee: Lmarek@aol.com or lmarek2@uic.edu

To see some presentations and information about previous years' trips, please go to Lee's web page at: <http://www.chem.uic.edu/marek/> and click on "History of Science Stuff". Chemist and photographer and frequent tour member, John Oliver has pictures online from many past tours at: <http://community.webshots.com/user/oliverjcomo>

We are looking forward to hearing from you!

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