



Pembroke Castle



Chepstow Castle



Powis Castle



# THE GREATEST KNIGHT



With award winning writer,  
**Elizabeth Chadwick**

In the Footsteps of  
WILLIAM MARSHAL  
October 6 -15, 2014



TO BOOK CALL 202.785.9000 OR 1.800.556.7896



William Marshal's effigy

# WILLIAM MARSHAL

Held hostage as a young boy caught between warring royalty, William Marshal rose from a penniless, humble background to jousting tourney champion and loyal knight. Later in life he acquired land and titles through his marriage to Isabelle de Clare, the daughter of Richard Strongbow, a Norman baron and Irish princess Aoife McMurrough. He was a favorite of Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine, and the two had a long and mutually beneficial rapport. Marshal was as well regarded by peers as he was the object of jealousy and allegation. Despite the fractious relationship among King Henry II and his sons, Henry the Young King, Richard the Lion-Hearted, Geoffrey and John (to become the infamous King John) Marshal fought valiantly in service to the feuding family—sometimes against his better judgment.

During this special history tour, delve into the fascinating life of William Marshal on an exclusive journey led by award winning historical novelist Elizabeth Chadwick, who has made an extensive study of the Marshal family. Across southern Wales and England we'll visit many landmarks and towns associated with Marshal's life for an in-depth look at the man's remarkable achievements and enduring legacies among the scenic landscape of Britain.

## HIGHLIGHTS

Enjoy readings by and discussions with Elizabeth Chadwick, author of two award-winning historical novels about the life of William Marshal. Learn about her research and exclusive back-story tidbits that don't appear in her novels.

Visit the most significant sites in Marshal's life, including Cartmel Priory in the Lake District, Pembroke Castle, Temple Church (where Marshal was interred), and the Castle of Chepstow, where original lattice-work doors—commissioned by Marshal—are still in place.

Discover other stunning historical and natural sites such as Powis Castle & Gardens; the dramatic Pembrokeshire coast; Tintern Abbey burial place of his wife and several of their children; and the villages and cities of St. Davids, Tenby, Manorbier, Salisbury, and London.

Meet other travelers who share your passion for the Middle Ages, historical fiction, and England's royal family and delve into these fascinating topics during meals and informal discussions.

Enjoy a full service tour experience, including well-located hotels, specially-planned meals, an exciting itinerary of visits related to William Marshal, and the services of a professional tour manager who takes care of all of the details for you.



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The scenic Lake District



Whittington Castle



# ITINERARY

## Monday–Tuesday, October 6–7

### USA/Manchester, England

Leave Monday evening from the US on independent flights to Manchester, England, arriving Tuesday morning. Transfer to the Midland Hotel. This evening introduce yourself to fellow travelers at a welcome reception and dinner. Meet Elizabeth Chadwick, author of the William Marshal novels and your host for the exciting tour ahead. (R,D)

## Wednesday, October 8

### Cartmel & the Lake District

Upon his return from the Holy Land around 1186, William Marshal spent a couple of years in northwest England in what is today the popular Lake District. Learn more about his time here on a visit to the village of Cartmel and the Augustinian priory, which William founded on land granted to him by King Henry II. See the unique square belfry—constructed diagonally across the original lantern tower—sublime sculptures, and the choir and arch, as well as other remnants from the early 15th century. Cartmel itself is an attractive village situated in an idyllic Valley in England’s famous and beautiful Lake District. Though dating to medieval times, Cartmel is a delightful mix of modern amenities and 16th- to 18th-century buildings. It is particularly famous in the UK for a dessert called Sticky Toffee Pudding! We’ll also journey to Lake Windermere, England’s longest natural lake (10.5 miles). Located entirely within the Lake District National Park, Lake Windermere sparkles beneath the fells of Cumbria. (B)

## Thursday, October 9

### Southwest Wales, Powis Castle & Gardens, Saundersfoot

Today we take a scenic journey from Manchester across to southwest Wales, stopping by Whittington Castle, whose present ruins date to 1221 when the FitzWarren family applied to King Henry III for permission to build a fortress. Continue to Powis Castle and Gardens. This stunning architectural gem and its lush garden landscape, influenced by French and Italian designs, is a feast for the senses. Originally built as a medieval fortress, the castle has undergone many renovations over the centuries. On a tour of the grand former residence see the collection of art, sculpture, and furnishings acquired by the Herbert family over generations. Some time at leisure to stroll among the world-famous gardens or enjoy a cup of tea with a slice of local bara brith—speckled bread. On the way to your luxury Hotel St. Bride’s Spa in Saundersfoot, Elizabeth talks about William Marshal’s connection with Wales. (B,D)

## Friday, October 10

### Tenby, Manorbier

As Earl of Pembroke in Wales, William Marshal was tenant-in-chief, managing large parcels of land, as well as the people, for the Crown. During a relaxing morning with coffee and pastries, Elizabeth reads from her novels and discusses William’s faithful service and duties to his king amid the feuding royalty. Later, we visit the seaside town of Tenby, where medieval fortress walls

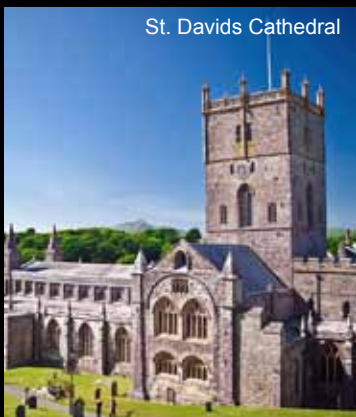
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Tintern Abbey facade



Garrison in Chepstow



St. Davids Cathedral

## ITINERARY CON'T

still stand. See the impressive Five Arches Gate, the sandy stretch of beach separating St. Catherine's Island from the mainland, and perhaps walk along the promenade below the 19th-century arched road. At the scenic village of Manorbier, discover the ruins of the small castle, situated on the coast with stunning views. Manorbier was the birthplace of one of the most famous (and notorious) chroniclers of William Marshal's time – Gerald of Wales. Tonight enjoy dinner at your hotel and recap the day's highlights. (B,D)

### Saturday, October 11

#### **Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, Pembroke Castle, St Davids**

The treasures of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park are many: iron-age hill forts, tombs, and Neolithic and Paleolithic art have all been uncovered here. Driving through this spectacular area, you'll discover its natural riches: dramatic cliffs dropping to the sea, sandy beaches, and a host of wildlife. Tour Pembroke Castle on the banks of an estuarine river. This important seat was occupied over centuries by many men of power who helped shaped Britain; it's remarkably intact and beautifully preserved. William Marshal was largely responsible for reconstructing the castle, whose original sections were built around 1093. Elizabeth discusses William's influence with the castle, which also features exhibits about events long after his day. Travel to the scenic coastal village of St Davids and tour the cathedral, a popular pilgrimage site during William's day. Stop by the medieval ruins of Bishops Palace next door. During dinner Elizabeth gives us a preview of Marshal's life at Chepstow, known as Striguil during his time, with his beloved Isabelle de Clare. (B, D)

### Sunday, October 12

#### **Chepstow, Tintern Abbey, Goodrich Castle, Chippenham**

Throughout the day Elizabeth reads scenes from her book that take place at what is now called Chepstow. Hear tidbits from Marshal's biography, *L'Histoire de Guillaume le Mareschal*, which was commissioned by his son William II following the elder's death. Visit Chepstow Castle, a Norman edifice high on the banks of the River Wye and a key stronghold from which campaigns were launched to quell rebellious uprisings in the region. William Marshal gained ownership of the castle when he married; he quickly set about updating it with modern defenses and other indulgences. View the impressive original lattice-work doors that William commissioned, the earliest known example of mortise-and-tenon in the UK. At Tintern Abbey, see the ruins of Wales's first Cistercian monastery. The abbey was founded in 1131 by Isabelle de Clare's father and has close connections with the Marshal family. Visit Goodrich Castle, that stands majestically overlooking the River Wye. This splendidly preserved square keep was granted to William Marshal and remained in the family until 1245. Stay at the charming country hotel, Beechfield House, near Bath. (B,D)

**Monday, October 13**

**Chippenham, Salisbury, London**

Begin the day with readings and a discussion about William Marshal's connection to Salisbury. His mother, Sybilla, was the sister of the Earl of Salisbury, and several scenes from Elizabeth's novels are set here. We'll stop by Old Sarum, once an iron-age hill fort and the original site of Salisbury. Here are the ruins of the palace where King Henry II kept Eleanor of Aquitaine prisoner for 16 years. Discover the 5,000-year-old history of Old Sarum and take in the stunning view from its ramparts. Two miles away, visit Salisbury Cathedral to view the original Magna Carta and admire the awe-inspiring architecture as well as the tomb of William Longespee, who had a large part to play in the history of the Marshals. We will drive past Marlborough, where William Marshal may have been born - though no one knows for certain. This evening we'll check into our hotel in London. (B)

**Tuesday, October 14**

**London: Temple Church, Tower of London**

On a half-day tour of London aboard our private coach, visit Temple Church to pay homage to William Marshal, who was buried here. His sons Gilbert and Walter also rest here. Though his remains are likely long gone, Marshal's stone effigy lies in repose on the floor, gallant in death as in life. The church was built by the Knights Templar, the 12th-century order of crusading monks that protected pilgrims on their way to and from the Holy Land. Shortly before his death in 1219, William Marshal took his vows, dying a Templar Knight. The church is one of the most spectacular in London. Later, tour the Tower of London, on the banks of the Thames, and learn how this amazing fortress was to become the world's most impenetrable. See the Crown Jewels, the collection of royal armor, and the restored Medieval Palace. Learn about the centuries-old tradition of the locking of the gates, said to be the longest-running ritual of its kind in the world. This evening celebrate your excursion through the life of William Marshal at a local restaurant. Elizabeth continues to entertain us with lively stories about her research and answers any final questions you may have about the Greatest Knight. (B,L,D)

**Wednesday, October 15**

**London, USA**

Transfer to Heathrow Airport for individual flights home. (B)

**A note about this literary tour program**

Author Elizabeth Chadwick is scheduled to fully participate in this specialized tour itinerary. Should she become unavailable to lead this tour due to unforeseen circumstances, Academic Travel Abroad, Inc. reserves the right to fulfill the educational program with specialist guides and lecturers. There will be no refunds due to Elizabeth Chadwick's non appearance on the program.



Grange Strathmore Hotel

The Midland Hotel

The Hotel St. Bride's

## ACCOMMODATIONS

### THE MIDLAND HOTEL IN MANCHESTER

*It is hard to know where to begin with the breathtaking hotel, The Midland. The impressive building stands proud in the heart of Manchester's city centre, and over the course of its 100 year history, the hotel has played host to Kings, Queens, Presidents, Prime Ministers and rock stars.*

### THE HOTEL ST. BRIDE'S IN SAUNDERSFOOT

*Recently awarded 'BEST VIEW in the UK' at the Best Kept Secret Awards and 'Best Residential Day Spa' at the Welsh Fashion and Beauty Awards 2013*

### BEECHFIELD HOTEL, NEAR CHIPPENHAM

*The traditionally furnished, individual rooms at this hotel are housed in a striking late-Victorian era country house set on 8 acres of beautiful grounds.*

### GRANGE STRATHMORE HOTEL IN LONDON

*The Grange Strathmore is an imposing 4-star hotel, located close to London's most famous museums in South Kensington. A fully restored Victorian mansion, the hotel building was formerly the London residence of the Earl of Strathmore — the late Queen Mother's father.*

Beechfield Hotel



## TOUR COST

Price per person in a double room:	\$4,390
For single occupancy room:	\$ 995

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# TERMS CONDITIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES

## WHAT IS INCLUDED

- Comprehensive educational program by Elizabeth Chadwick and professional on-site guides
- All accommodations and meals as outlined in the itinerary
- All ground transportation within the itinerary unless otherwise indicated
- All sightseeing as specified in the itinerary
- Entrance fees
- Gratuities to porters, drivers, and guides
- Transfers to and from airports for those arriving or departing according to the designated itinerary
- Baggage handling for one checked piece and one carry on piece per person
- The assistance of an ATA tour manager for comprehensive logistical and customer service management on the trip
- The assistance of an ATA professional travel team to assist with pre-trip questions, travel arrangements, including flights, extra hotel nights, or other services.
- Comprehensive pre-departure information about the destination and what to expect on the trip, including a suggested reading list

## WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED

- Airfare to join the program
- Airport transfers and baggage handling for anyone arriving before or after the scheduled transfer times
- Travel and trip cancellation insurance
- Passport, visa, airport departure and excess baggage fees
- Meals not specified in the itinerary; food and beverages not part of the included meals
- Personal items such as telephone, fax and internet charges, laundry, room service, alcoholic or other beverages not specified as included
- Gratuities for non-group services
- Expenses resulting from delays due to bad weather, road conditions, sickness, government action, and flight delays
- Expenses incurred in making individual travel arrangements in conjunction with the trip

## SINGLE ROOMS

A limited number of single rooms are available at extra cost on a first-come, first-served basis, but availability cannot be guaranteed. Please understand that, in some hotels, single rooms are very small. The premium you pay is for privacy, not spaciousness.

## PAYMENT SCHEDULE

\$500 deposit upon application. Balance due upon receipt of invoice, 90 days before departure. Acceptable forms of payment for the deposit are personal check, wire transfer, Visa, MasterCard, or American Express. Final payment may be made by credit card, check or wire transfer. If final payment is not received by 60 days prior to departure, your space is subject to cancellation. If you are making a reservation within 90 days of the trip's departure, full payment will be required upon confirmation.

## CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS

All cancellations must be submitted in writing (email or fax) to Academic Travel Abroad, Inc. (ATA). Per person cancellation fees are based on the date of the cancellation notice reaching ATA. More than 120 days prior to departure; refund of deposit less an administration fee of 50% of deposit. Cancellation between 119-91 days before departure: 100% of deposit is forfeited. Cancellation between 90-61 days, 50% of the tour price if forfeited. Cancellation within 60 days of departure: no refund. Cancellation on day of departure or after tour departs: no refund. No refund for unused portions of tour, including, but not limited to, missed meals, hotel nights and sightseeing. Cancellation of program by ATA: full refund. Reservations are not transferable without the explicit approval of ATA.

NOTE: ATA does not accept liability for any airline or train cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable airline or train ticket to the tour departure city or return.

## INSURANCE

We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. We will send you a brochure from Travel Insurance Services, or you may obtain coverage through a company of your choice. All ATA trips include Emergency Evacuation Insurance as part of the trip price.

## A NOTE ABOUT THE ITINERARY

While every effort will be made to carry out the program as planned, the nature of travel is unpredictable and we must be prepared for changes. The itinerary as described is subject to modification by ATA. Rest assured that, should any changes be needed, we commit to deliver an experience as outstanding as the one originally planned.

## HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS

To enjoy your travels to the fullest, you should be in good physical and mental health. Any physical condition requiring special attention, diets, or treatment must be reported in writing when the reservation is made. We reserve the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a participant should such a person's health, mental condition, physical infirmity, or attitude jeopardize the operation of the travel program or the enjoyment of other participants. All health information is protected and treated as confidential.

## RESPONSIBILITY

This travel program is managed by Academic Travel Abroad, Inc. (ATA), a professional travel company, hired as an independent contractor. ATA acts only as an agent for the passenger with respect to all transportation, hotels, and all matters of reservations and trip operation. We and our agents accept no responsibility for loss, damage, injury, accident, delay or irregularity, expense or liability caused by the defect of any vehicle or negligence or default of any independent contractors, their employees, agents, or representatives. Nor do we accept responsibility for losses or delays arising from sickness, pilferage, acts of terrorism, weather conditions or acts of God. All such losses or expenses shall be borne by the program participant. We reserve the right to cancel any trip prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. We likewise reserve the right to decline to accept or retain any trip participant at any time without being under any obligation to assign any reason therefore. In the event of the exercise of this right, we shall be under no liability to such person(s) except to refund such amount as our absolute discretion deems reasonable to attribute to the uncompleted portion of the trip. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. It is understood that air, ship or train tickets when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and carrier concerned. The airlines and all other transportation companies involved in this trip are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time the passengers are not on board their plane or conveyances. All services are subject to the laws of the country in which they are rendered. The participant agrees on behalf of herself/himself, her/his dependents, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns to abide by the above conditions and to release and hold harmless, Academic Travel Abroad, Inc., and any of their representatives from any and all liability for any delays, damage, loss, injury or death occurring in relation to this tour.

## CALIFORNIA SELLER OF TRAVEL PROGRAM CST #2059002-40

ATA is a participant in the California Seller of Travel program. California law requires that certain sellers of travel have a trust account or bond. ATA has a trust account. ATA is not a participant in the California Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation.

## TO RESERVE TODAY

The quickest way to make a reservation is to call Academic Travel Abroad in Washington, DC at 202-785-9000 or 1-800-556-7896.

We accept VISA, MasterCard, and American Express credit cards. Early reservation is recommended to ensure your space on this program.

For inquiries email us at [travel@academic-travel.com](mailto:travel@academic-travel.com).



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