



# SPRING 2007 Cultural Activities

## Pre - Book Package Trips in the UK & Europe

### Information and Pre - Booking Form

Hello from **AIU London Cultural Activities!**

Here in London the Cultural Activities team comprises Alice Gilkes, International & Cultural Programmes Coordinator and Tony Skitt, Director of International Programmes. Each term we organise a series of events designed to give students an understanding of European culture by visiting many wonderful places and attending special events. So along with your new found AIU London friends you can relax and enjoy your experience in London and really get to know Europe.

This booklet is your guide to our [PRE BOOK TRIPS SPRING 2007](#). These trips have been pre arranged to guarantee you competitive group prices but with demand being high for our trips we advise you to take advantage of the "pre book" option for these trips to avoid disappointment.

Please read the following information to see what we have on offer this SPRING 2007. Details of the trips include:

- Itinerary overview
- Visits and sightseeing information additional to AIU lead activities
- Accommodation
- Cost

### Pre - Booking Procedures

#### How to Book your place

Signing up in advance for trips is easy:

1. Mark your preferred trip/s on page 1 of the accompanying Pre-Booking form.
2. Fill in your credit card details on page 2 of the form.
3. Fax/ mail the form to the number/ address provided on page 2 of the Pre-Booking Form

We will then sign you up on the trips you have chosen and send you a confirmation email within 3 days of our receiving the faxed Pre Booking form. (This form is kept in a secure location)

Frequently our pre-book trips sell out before the start of term, so book early in order not to miss out!

Our department have been organising Cultural Activities for our students for over 10 years. Each term we take students to destinations all over Europe, so you know that you will be in good hands!

## PRE BOOKABLE DAY TRIP # 1



**FRIDAY 13 APRIL** Cost £34

### **Day Trip to Bath and Stonehenge**

What better way to start your term abroad than a day visiting two of Britain's most popular tourist destinations? The stunning city of Bath and the prehistoric monument at Stonehenge. Bath is a great place to begin an exploration of British culture, as it was a city built by the Romans (on Celtic foundations) and each subsequent period of British history has touched the city in some way. Today its most visible era is the 18<sup>th</sup>-century, from which we are left the world's finest collection of Georgian buildings. Jane Austen knew Bath well; she lived in the city and used it as a source of inspiration for many of her novels. Bath is not all sightseeing though; it was Princess Diana's favourite shopping city and it is also a vibrant university town. The cost includes a visit to the world-famous Roman baths where bubbling hot springs and a bathing complex were built by the Romans when Bath was known as Aquae Sulis. On the way to Bath, we will explore prehistoric Britain by visiting Europe's most famous ancient site, Stonehenge. Magical and mystical, Stonehenge is the world-famous stone circle erected around 3,000 BC. Why Stonehenge was constructed is still a matter of some debate; was it built as a place of ritual sacrifice or as a giant astronomical calculator for time-reading?



### **What's included in the cost?**

- Return Bus transportation
- Entrance to sites (Stonehenge and Roman Baths)
- AIU London Guide

**To reserve your place - Complete and return the Pre – Booking Form that accompanies this guide!!!**

## PRE BOOKABLE DAY TRIP # 2



**SATURDAY 28 APRIL** Cost £ 65

### **Day trip to France – Lille (via the Channel Tunnel train):**

France is a country where the finest things in life surround you. It is a country whose culture is immediately seductive; with its literature, its art, its cinema and architecture, the French have made a most profound and provocative impression on Europe. We all know that French food and its wine rank among the world's finest, so why not come with us on a day trip to France to really "vive la difference!". We will travel to the ancient city of Lille, the capital of northern France, via the high-speed Eurostar (or Channel Tunnel) train. Lille's splendour was founded in the Middle Ages, when it was one of the great wool towns of Medieval Flanders. Since then the Spanish and Austrian empires have all influenced the feel of the city, which we will explore as we walk around *Vieux Lille* (the city's old town). Lille is not all about history, however, as it has many fine restaurants and cafes providing diners with succulent Flemish specialties, and its shopping is second only to Paris (without paying Paris prices!). After lunch we have the opportunity to visit the city's magnificent Fine Arts Museum (*additional cost*), whose collection is the second finest in the country, behind that of the Louvre Museum. Many of Europe's great artists are featured, including Flemish painters like Van Dyck and Rubens, Italian works by Veronese, Tintoretto, Raphael and Donatello, Spanish paintings by El Greco and Goya (including his *Les Vieilles*) and, of course, French artists like David, Toulouse Lautrec and Impressionist works by Monet and Corot.

### **What's included in the cost?**

- Round-trip rail transportation (via Eurostar) between London and Lille
- A guided tour of Lille upon arrival
- Services of two Student Services staff.
- All other visits and meals will be at an additional cost.



**To reserve your place - Complete and return the Pre – Booking Form that accompanies this guide!!!**



## FRIDAY 25 MAY – MONDAY 28 MAY Cost £340

**HOLIDAY WEEKEND Four-day Weekend Trip to Switzerland:** Few countries in the world can claim to be as visually stunning as Switzerland. Magnificent mountains dominate three-fifths of the country, with the remainder blanketed by peaceful meadows, tranquil lakes and tiny hilltop hamlets. We fly into Zurich, one of the world's most important commercial centres, before traveling to Lucerne in Central Switzerland. Lucerne is the Switzerland you imagine, with a beautiful lake, medieval frescoed buildings forming quaint narrow streets, sparkling fountains and the famous Chapel Bridge. We will spend lunch there before journeying on towards the high Alps, cutting through the mountains to Interlaken, our base for the weekend. Situated at 1,800 feet, Interlaken is the gateway to the spectacular Bernese Oberland in the heart of the high Alps. We will stay at the famous Balmer's Herberge, an establishment that is geared to young adventure seekers who want to experience the Alps at first-hand. We plan to arrange a full-day hike (included in the trip cost) and mountain biking (additional cost) excursions for Saturday and Sunday in order to explore this beautiful region in more detail. Alternatively, if you would like to try something more adventurous, the possibilities are endless and Balmer's (for an additional fee) will help organize a diverse range of activities from white-water rafting, to canyoning and paragliding! On Monday we will board a boat in Interlaken that will take us across the beautiful Lake Brienz to the lovely lakeside village of Brienz. Brienz is the centre of Switzerland's woodcarving industry and is a wonderful spot to take lunch, after which we will rejoin our coach to travel back to Zurich airport. Students will have the opportunity to purchase outdoor adventure packages upon our arrival in Interlaken. Spaces are limited for this trip, and students wishing to participate are can reserve their place by completing the attached booking form and returning it to AIU (via the address or fax number provided).

### What's included in the cost?

- Return transfers from central London to Airports
- Return flights London Heathrow to Zurich with Swiss Air
- 3 Nights bed and breakfast in shared multibed accommodation in Balmers Herberge
- Hike on Saturday waterfall entrance & transport
- Boat trip on Lake Brienz on Sunday
- **Services of AIU London staff**

**Balmers Herberge specialises in lots of outdoor activities such as rafting, skydiving paragliding etc. Any of these activities can be booked (additional cost) when we arrive in Interlaken for the weekend. Check out their website ([www.balmers.com](http://www.balmers.com))!! Please note all students must have appropriate travel insurance for European/adventure travel.**



Alice Gilkes, Cultural Activities Coordinator, profiles the Spring Term's Weekend in Switzerland..

*"For me, Switzerland is the most attractive country in the whole of Europe, and the Bernese Oberland (the area around Interlaken), is the most beautiful place in Switzerland. The holiday weekend allows us an extra day to explore the area and really get out and take advantage of the range of outdoor activities offered here. The friendly staff at the famous Balmer's Herberge ([www.balmers.com](http://www.balmers.com)), our base for the weekend, make booking activities such as rafting, canyoning, paragliding and even skydiving easy! Included in the trip cost is a full day hike to the gorgeous Lauterbrunnen valley— imagine a lush, green valley with waterfalls cascading down the valley sides, crowned by three of the tallest mountains in Europe—the Eiger, the Mönch and the Jungfrau. En route we will stop off at the Trümmelbach Falls, where walkways take you into the valley face as water is channeled down through the rock at an incredible rate. Add in a visit to the picturesque lake-side city of Lucerne on Friday and a relaxing cruise on Lake Brienz on Monday morning and it all adds up to my favourite trip of the year!"*

**To reserve your place - Complete and return the Pre – Booking Form that accompanies this guide!!!**