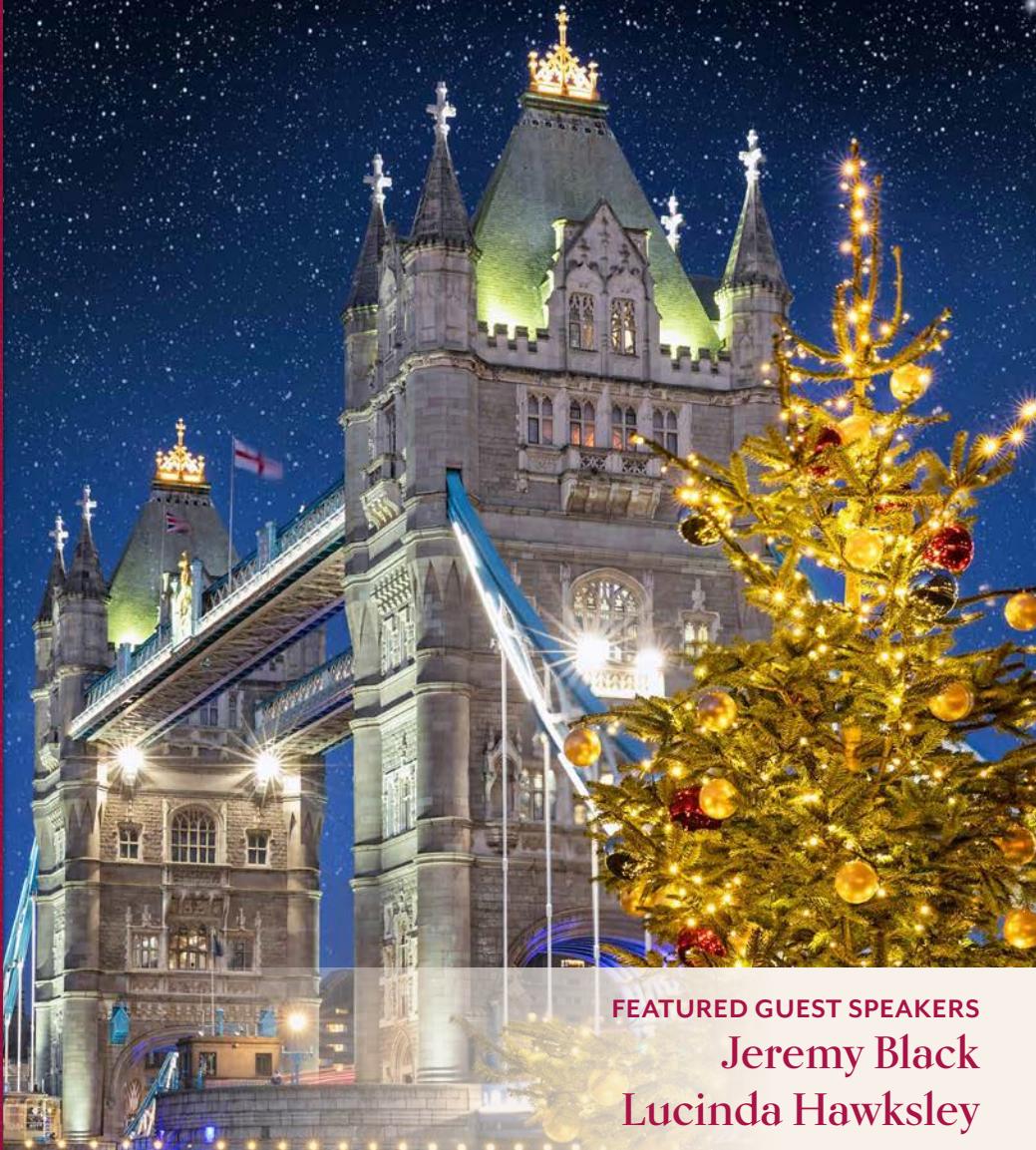




**MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™**  
**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**  
Traveling Bulldogs™

# A Royal English Christmas

**HOLIDAY TRADITIONS IN BATH & LONDON**



**FEATURED GUEST SPEAKERS**

**Jeremy Black**

**Lucinda Hawksley**

**December 5 – December 13, 2026**

**D**elight in a magical holiday journey through England, brimming with Yuletide cheer! In UNESCO-listed Bath, admire elegant Georgian architecture and the famous Roman Baths. Step into 18th-century style at a restored townhouse museum and savor a festive tea at the Royal Crescent Hotel. Explore the storybook village of Lacock, medieval Lacock Abbey and the grand Dyrham Park estate before visiting Windsor Castle, beautifully adorned for the season. In lively London, discover Christmas traditions at the Victoria & Albert Museum, Leadenhall Market and a performance of “A Christmas Carol” at the Old Vic Theatre. Follow in Charles Dickens’ footsteps on a walking tour and enjoy a cozy pub lunch. Conclude your festive journey with your choice of a Christmas-themed cooking class or a visit to sparkling Covent Garden!

## Exclusive Highlights

- Spend 7 nights immersed in the holiday magic of England.
- Private holiday tour of the No. 1 Royal Crescent townhouse museum, fashionably decorated in late 18th-century Georgian style.
- Specially arranged Dickensian Christmas walking tour.
- 3 UNESCO World Heritage sites: The City of Bath; Tower of London; and the Palace of Westminster & Westminster Abbey.



**Above: Lacock Abbey,  
Lacock, Wiltshire**  
**Cover: London Tower Bridge**

Photo Credits: Alamy, AdobeStock, Shutterstock, ©Visit West, No.1 Royal Crescent – Bath Preservation Trust; all images are rights managed and cannot be used without permission.



## Dear Alumni and Friends,

Step into a storybook holiday with a seven-night journey through England, filled with festive cheer and timeless traditions. Spend three nights in the elegant city of Bath and four nights in bustling London, staying in first-class, centrally located hotels and enjoying guided tours and seasonal experiences at every turn. From historic towns to iconic London landmarks, this holiday journey offers a perfect blend of tradition, charm and Christmas magic that you will remember forever.

Bath and London truly come alive at Christmas! Experience the Yuletide sights of Bath and indulge in a special holiday tea at the Royal Crescent Hotel, surrounded by elegant décor and seasonal cheer. Explore a whimsical Cotswold village and gaze at enchanting Windsor Castle, sparkling with Christmas decorations. In London, stroll through twinkling Leadenhall Market, explore festive traditions at the Victoria & Albert Museum and be captivated by "A Christmas Carol" at the Old Vic theater. Savor cozy pub lunches and time to explore Christmas markets, sip warm mulled wine and hunt for perfect holiday gifts. Don't miss your chance to experience the magic of Christmas in England!

Sincerely,

Jeff Davis  
Executive Director  
MSU Alumni Association

Leanna Smith, '09, '16  
Assistant Director  
MSU Alumni Association

**Travel Insurance:** An application for trip cancellation, baggage and medical insurance will be sent to you by the MSU Alumni Association's travel program once you are registered for the tour. Travel insurance is strongly recommended. Contact Leanna Smith at 662-325-3360 or [lsmith@alumni.msstate.edu](mailto:lsmith@alumni.msstate.edu) for further information.



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### Day 1 | December 5

Depart your home city for London, England.

### Day 2 | December 6

R

London, England | Bath

Arrive in London, transfer to Bath and check in to *The Francis Hotel*. If you wish, venture out to visit the Georgian-style Bath Christmas Market, filled with carol singers and chalets selling local foods. Gather later for a Welcome Reception.

### Day 3 | December 7

B-L

Bath

Trace history while walking through well-preserved Bath, nestled along the River Avon. Visit the Roman Baths, where you can view artifacts dedicated to the healing goddess Sulis and the remains of an ancient heating system. Next, admire the must-see highlights of Bath Abbey, a magnificent Gothic church, and Pulteney Bridge, an 18th-century masterpiece. Enjoy a private tour of the

Georgian Royal Crescent, a row of houses with Georgian façades and Romanesque columns.

Delight in a Christmas-themed Afternoon Tea. Savor indulgent finger sandwiches, exquisite cakes and pastries, handmade scones served with clotted cream and jam, and fine loose tea or coffee.

Cap off the day with leisure time to craft your own path.

### Day 4 | December 8

B-L

Bath | Lacock

Travel to breathtaking rural England to the charming Cotswolds. Begin at the quaint village of Lacock, managed by

the National Trust. Stroll along Lacock's high street, visit Lacock Abbey and listen to stories of scientist William Henry Fox Talbot. Many films and TV shows have been filmed here, including "Pride and Prejudice" and the beloved "Downton Abbey."

Enjoy lunch at the White Hart, a traditional English pub.

En route to Bath, stop at the National Trust Dyrham Park, a 270-acre park with an elegant country house. The rooms sparkle with festive greenery and twinkling lights, creating a warm holiday glow, while outside, a magnificent



No. 1 Royal Crescent Drawing Room, Bath



London's double-decker buses



St. Paul's Cathedral

giant wreath welcomes visitors with true Christmas magic. Dinner is at leisure tonight. Find a traditional holiday meal with roast turkey Yorkshire puddings, roasted vegetables or mince pies.

**Day 5 | December 9** **B**

Bath | London

After breakfast, depart for London. Your first adventure in this dynamic city begins at the renowned Victoria & Albert Museum (V&A). Founded in 1857, the V&A houses an extraordinary collection that spans centuries — from exquisite fashion and medieval tombs to luxurious Persian silk carpets. See the first

Christmas card, requested by Sir Henry Cole and designed by artist John Callcott Horsley in 1843.

Check in to the elegant *The Rubens at the Palace*.

**Day 6 | December 10** **B-L-D**

London

Delve into the life of world-famous author Charles Dickens on an enlightening walking tour. Begin at the Charles Dickens Museum and join a guide to tour the museum's rare paintings, manuscripts and more. Then, follow a storied path, from alleyways to gas-lit courtyards and old pubs, plus other sites that Dickens knew intimately and wrote about. Learn about the background behind different novels and

interesting facts about Dickens' life and works.

Settle in for a traditional English pub lunch at the historic Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese, where crackling fires, hearty fare and centuries of London lore create the perfect setting.

Continue to the dazzling Leadenhall Market, a stunning covered arcade with an ornate Victorian interior. During the festive season, it transforms into a holiday wonderland, adorned with twinkling lights, miniature Christmas trees, sweeping garlands and a magnificent centerpiece tree. Browse the boutiques and food spaces, which offer mulled wines, baked goods and a selection of gifts.

*Big Ben, Westminster, London*



Windsor Castle





*Holiday market foods*

Tonight, Ebenezer Scrooge and his three ghosts take center stage tonight during a performance of “A Christmas Carol” at London’s famous Old Vic theater. Enjoy dinner before the show.

**Day 7 | December 11** **B**  
Windsor | London

Experience the grandeur of Windsor Castle, one of His Majesty the King’s official residences and a magnificent setting for royal ceremonies and state occasions. Explore the opulent State Apartments,

home to world-class art collections, and marvel at the festive décor — including a towering Nordmann Fir tree in St. George’s Chapel.

**Day 8 | December 12** **B-L**  
London

After breakfast, join your selected Traveler’s Choice excursion. Either participate in a Christmas-themed cooking class or visit Covent Garden, a beloved Christmas destination.

Hop on an open-top bus to enjoy a drive along London’s

festive streets, decked with holiday lights and decor. Pass by the Tower of London, Big Ben, Westminster Abbey and other city highlights.

On the London Eye, raise a special Champagne toast to your holiday adventure.

**Day 9 | December 13** **B**  
London | Return to Home City

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for return flights.

*Note: This itinerary is subject to change due to local conditions.*

## Featured Guest Speakers



### Jeremy Black MBE

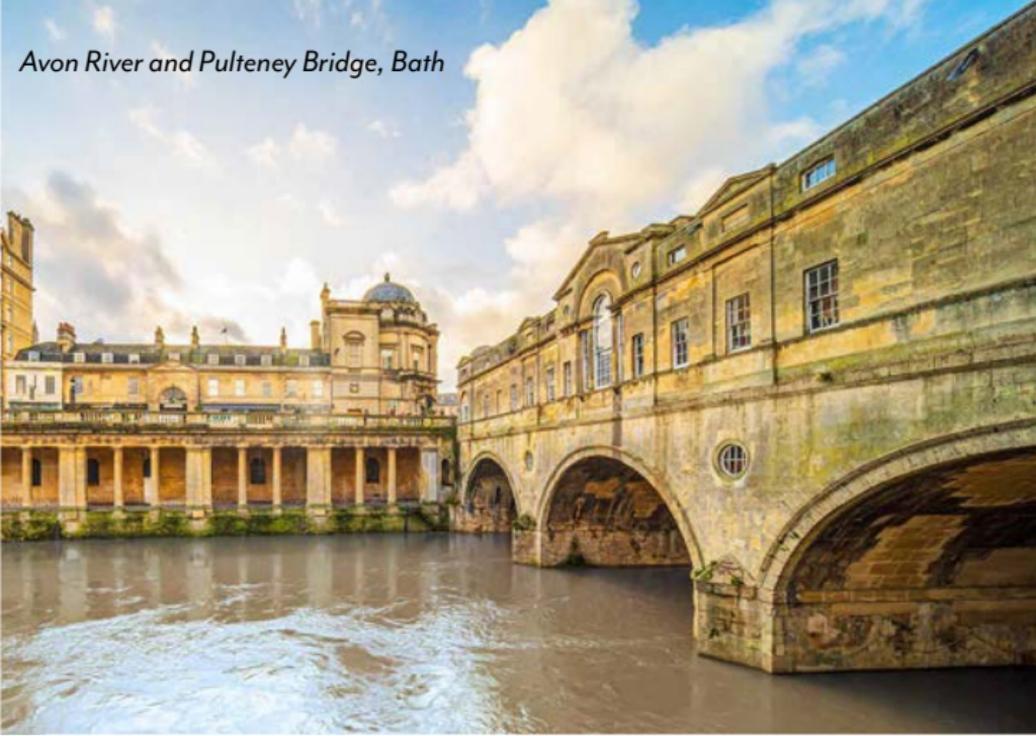
Professor Jeremy Black, MBE, is a distinguished British historian and author of over 180 books on British and global history. A Cambridge graduate and former professor at Durham and Exeter, he is a Fellow at Hillsdale College’s Center for Military History and the British Foreign Policy Research Institute.



### Lucinda Hawksley

Lucinda Hawksley is a broadcaster, lecturer and award-winning travel writer, as well as the great-great-great-granddaughter of Charles Dickens. Her recent books include “Victorian Christmas” and “Dickens and Travel,” exploring Dickens’s journeys and festive traditions. She is a frequent speaker at Dickens festivals worldwide and serves as President of the International Dickens Fellowship.

*Avon River and Pulteney Bridge, Bath*



*Roman Baths*



*Holiday Markets, Bath*



## INCLUDED FEATURES

- 3 nights in Bath, England, at the *Francis Hotel*.
- 4 nights in London at *The Rubens at the Palace*.
- Welcome Reception and a festive Farewell toast.
- Included Meals | 7 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 1 dinner.
- Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Director accompanies you throughout the program.
- Celebrated guest speakers, expert lecturers and faculty leaders enrich your experience with their knowledge and insight.
- During included excursions, our experienced local guides will teach you about the history, culture and natural splendor of the destination.
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### Francis Hotel | Bath

Discover Bath's grandeur at this stylish hotel housed in a series of connected, 18th-century townhouses in the heart of the city. You'll be greeted by a friendly team who are at the ready to ensure that your stay is pleasant and memorable. The thoughtfully designed, spacious guest rooms feature Egyptian cotton linens and en-suite bathrooms with modern amenities including eco-friendly toiletries.



### The Rubens at the Palace | London

Steeped in history and located on a site that was, in the 18th-century, part of the grounds of Buckingham Palace, *The Rubens at the Palace* stands as a living testament to its storied past. Guests revel in the meticulous attention to detail, beautifully appointed accommodations, delicious restaurants and personalized service. The hotel creates a unique blend of modern luxury and timeless charm for every guest to experience.

## The Gohagan Difference – An Inclusive Luxury Experience

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- Travel Director(s)

A VALUE  
of up to  
**\$2,020**  
per person

**2026 DEPARTURE DATE | December 5 to 13 | Tour Begins: December 6**

Occupancy	Standard Rate	Special Savings Rate*
Single	\$9,365	<b>\$8,365</b>
Double	\$7,495	<b>\$6,495</b>

**\*The Special Savings Rate is valid if booked by 6/5/26 and paid in full at booking.**

**These Special Savings consist of \$500 Early Booking and \$500 Pay-in-Full Savings.**

- All rates are in U.S. dollars, per person, based on double occupancy, including taxes, unless stated otherwise.
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Covent Garden, London, England



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