



TOP BRASS TOUR '09

to the **UK NATIONAL BRASS BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS**
ROYAL ALBERT HALL, LONDON
Hosted by Dr Ronald & Janette Smart



YOU can be part of the audience for the finals of the U.K. NATIONAL BRASS BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS at London's Royal Albert Hall, undoubtedly a pinnacle experience for brass band enthusiasts the world over. Add to this three days in the "city of light", Paris; three days in the beautiful, unspoiled medieval town of Bruges; plus a week in London, staying in a hotel conveniently close to the Royal Albert Hall, and you have two exciting and unforgettable weeks. There will also be the opportunity to attend open band rehearsals and pre-and post-competition concerts given by some of the very best brass bands ever to appear on a concert stage.

Join a select group of Australians and New Zealanders who will travel together on a fully escorted tour to the U.K. NATIONAL BRASS BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS COMPETITION from October 5 to 20, 2009.

TOP BRASS TOUR '09 Itinerary

MONDAY 05 OCTOBER AUSTRALIA / HONG KONG / PARIS

Depart Australia flying Cathay Pacific via Hong Kong to Paris. Tour participants departing from New Zealand can arrange their own flight to Europe and meet the group in Hong Kong or Paris on 06 October. Alternatively, you can make your own way to Sydney and join the group flight departure from Sydney with Cathay Pacific.

TUESDAY 06 OCTOBER PARIS

Arrive in Paris where you will be met by your coach and English speaking tour guide and taken on a half day orientation tour of Paris to discover this beautiful, lively city and its multitude of magnificent sights and historical monuments including the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral, Champs Elysees, Arc de Triomphe, Louvre, Montmartre and the Opera Districts. Afterwards, transfer to your 3 star superior accommodation where you will stay for the next 3 nights on a bed and breakfast basis. This evening there will be a **welcome dinner** at a local restaurant.

WEDNESDAY 07 OCTOBER PARIS

Today you will be provided a two day "A la Carte Pass" for the Batobus & L'Open Tour bus. Over the next two days you can enjoy a Hop off bus tour of Paris with L'Open Tour as well as Batobus, the unique river boat shuttle service which enables you to hop off at various quarters of the capital.

THURSDAY 08 OCTOBER PARIS

After breakfast, the day is at leisure. Your Paris L' Open Bus and Batobus cruise passes are valid again today.

FRIDAY 09 OCTOBER PARIS / BRUSSELS / BRUGES (BELGIUM)

This morning you will be transferred by coach to the train station where you will take the Thalys train (also known as the Red Train) to Brussels. Upon arrival, you will be met by your coach & driver and transferred onwards to the medieval town of **Bruges**, Belgium's hidden treasure. On arrival in Bruges, you will check into your 3 star hotel where you will stay for the next 3 nights on a bed and breakfast basis. This evening, there will be a **group dinner** at the hotel or a local restaurant (3 course menu / drinks not included).

SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER BRUGES

After breakfast, a local English speaking guide will meet you at the hotel and take you on a **walking tour** of Bruges. Rest of the day is free for your own activities.

SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER BRUGES

Today is at leisure, with the opportunity to take a variety of interesting tours from Bruges; Alternatively, you may like to stay in Bruges and enjoy a guided boat trip through the canals of the town and surrounding countryside.

MONDAY 12 OCTOBER BRUGES / LONDON

After breakfast, check out of your hotel. Your coach will transfer you to Brussels and the train station to meet your Eurostar train to London. On arrival in London, you will be met and transferred to your 3 star hotel in the Kensington area, within close walking distance to the **Royal Albert Hall**. Here you will stay for the next 7 nights on a bed and continental breakfast basis. This evening, there will be a **group dinner** at a local restaurant.

TUESDAY 13 OCTOBER LONDON

Today is at leisure. You will be supplied with an "Oyster Card" during your stay in London - the smartest, fastest and cheapest way to pay for journeys on the bus, tube, tram, London Underground and participating National Rail Services.

WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER LONDON

Today you have the opportunity to take the Original London Sightseeing tour where you will see the landmarks that make London famous including Buckingham Palace, Piccadilly Circus, London Bridge, Big Ben, St Paul's Cathedral, Tower of London and Westminster Abbey. If you wish, this afternoon you can attend an OPEN BAND REHEARSAL with the INTERNATIONAL STAFF BAND.

THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER LONDON

This morning is free to explore or shop in London. This evening attend a **PRE-COMPETITION BAND CONCERT**.

FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER LONDON

Today is at leisure. You may wish to join one of many walking tours on offer in London - Secret London, Shakespeare's and Dickens' London, Legal & Illegal London and London & the Da Vinci Code to name a few. This evening attend a **PRE-COMPETITION BAND CONCERT**.

SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER LONDON

Today is THE DAY! Tickets will be provided for you to attend the U.K. NATIONAL BRASS BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS AT ROYAL ALBERT HALL. The event starts at 10.00am. This evening attend a Post-Competition Band Concert featuring Championship winning bands.

SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER LONDON

Full day at leisure. This evening attend the **COMPETITION FINALÉ BRASS BAND CONCERT**.

MONDAY 19 OCTOBER LONDON / HONG KONG / AUSTRALIA

This morning you will be transferred to London Heathrow for your Cathay Pacific flight home to Australia. If you wish to stay longer, you can return at a later date from places such as London, Paris, Rome, Amsterdam and Frankfurt. Stopovers in Hong Kong can also be arranged.

TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER AUSTRALIA

Evening arrival back in Australia

TOP BRASS TOUR '09

Tour cost based on a minimum of 40 people travelling together on the above tour:

\$5,995.00 per person

Single room Supplement:

\$2,400.00 per person

TOUR COST INCLUDES:

- Return economy airfare flying Cathay Pacific - Sydney / Hong Kong / London / Hong Kong / Sydney
- Arrival airport transfer in Paris and 3 hour orientation tour of Paris with English speaking guide
- 3 nights accommodation twin/double share in a 3 star hotel in Paris including daily breakfast
- 3 course group dinner in Paris on night of arrival (drinks not included)
- 2 day A la Carte pass for L'Open tour bus and Batobus river boat shuttle service
- Coach transfer from Paris Hotel to train station
- Thalys Train 2nd class rail - Paris to Brussels
- Coach transfer from Brussels rail station to Bruges Hotel
- 3 nights accommodation twin/double share in a 3 star hotel in Bruges including daily breakfast
- 3 course group dinner in Bruges on night of arrival (drinks not included)
- Walking tour of Bruges with English speaking guide
- Coach transfer from Bruges Hotel to Brussels rail station
- Eurostar 2nd class rail - Brussels to London
- Coach transfer from London rail station to London Hotel
- 7 nights accommodation twin/double share at your 3 star hotel in the Kensington area, including continental breakfast
- 3 course group dinner in London on night of arrival (drinks not included)
- Tickets to National Brass Band Championships plus 3 concerts (subject to final scheduling by the Championships' Management)
- London Oyster Card (credit of GBP20.00)
- Hop on Hop off London bus pass
- Coach transfer from London hotel to London Heathrow Airport



TOUR COST DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Airport taxes / levies / Fuel Surcharges - Estimate as at 25 September 2008 - \$800.00 (these can only be determined at time of the ticket issuance so are subject to change up or down depending on currency fluctuations and tax alterations).
- Meals other than stated.
- Tips to guides and drivers
- Porterage
- Items of personal nature (e.g. laundry, phone calls, room service, etc).
- Passport and visa costs - please check with this office if you require visas for your tour. If you are travelling on a non Australian passport please check if you require a re-entry visa.
- Travel Insurance HIGHLY RECOMMENDED - Available from Gullivers Sport Travel

All land costs shown are subject to alteration (up or down) due to currency fluctuations and increases in land and air costs which arise between now and the date of departure. Costs will also depend on availability of hotels, trains, buses etc quoted on. These costs are subject to the group travelling together throughout the tour. Any variation will incur an amendment fee and may also jeopardise the costs for the rest of the group. Concert dates, times and locations are subject to final confirmation by National Band Championship organization.

Land costs are based on an exchange selling rate of .45 against the UK Pound & .56 against the Euro.



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Expression Of Interest

Tour Participant Name: _____ E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Home Address: _____