BRYN MAWR
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

WILD WALES
LANDSCAPES & LITERATURE
JUNE 6 TO 16, 2015
Dear Bryn Mawr Alumnae/i,

Wales, the smallest country in Great Britain, is replete with stunning scenery and proud traditions—among them the language that gave our alma mater her name. Discover the cultural and natural wonders of this ancient land on a 10-day journey led by Kate Thomas, Associate Professor and Chair of English.

In the vibrant capital city of Cardiff, go behind the scenes at the Senedd (National Assembly) and take a curator-led tour of the National Museum Cardiff, home to one of Europe’s finest collections of Impressionism. Explore Roman ruins in Caerleon, associated with King Arthur, and admire Tintern Abbey, inspiration to poets and painters. Devote a day to Wales’ greatest poet in Swansea, where Dylan Thomas was born one hundred years ago, and delve into Welsh Quaker history at the Bryn Mawr Farm Estate in Dolgellau. After visiting the surreal seaside resort of Portmeirion (familiar from the cult television series, The Prisoner), enjoy breathtaking views in verdant Conwy Valley and the rugged mountains of Snowdonia. Conclude in Llangollen, a small town steeped in legend, where a highlight is Plas Newydd, home of the aristocratic, eccentric “Ladies of Llangollen,” whose guests included Byron and Shelley.

Wales is home to hundreds of castles, and no trip would be complete without venturing inside some of them. Medieval Conwy, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and Hawarden, Gladstone’s former estate, are but a few of the storied fortresses we will visit.

We hope you will join us on this Bryn Mawr-exclusive journey to an often overlooked corner of the United Kingdom. Space is limited, so please reserve early!

Warmest regards,

Wendy M. Greenfield
Executive Director
Bryn Mawr Alumnae Association

TRAVELING WITH YOU

Kate Thomas received her D.Phil degree from Oxford University and teaches and writes about Nineteenth Century British Literature and Culture. She has particular interests in nineteenth century communication technologies, the history of sexuality, critical and cultural theory, and food studies. Dr. Thomas recently completed a book on the postal system in Victorian Britain and has been developing a research and teaching project on Victorian food culture. The book, entitled Victorian Fat and Thin is on food and class in the age of mechanical reproduction. The class, called “Eating Culture,” pays particular attention to the relationship of food to nineteenth-century colonial and imperial discourse, analyzing how food both traces and guides global networks of power, politics, and trade.
PHILADELPHIA

Saturday, June 6  Depart Philadelphia on an overnight flight to London Heathrow.

LONDON, ENGLAND | CARDIFF, WALES

Sunday, June 7  Arrive at London Heathrow airport this morning and drive to Cardiff, Wales. Accommodations are at the Park Plaza Hotel, located in the heart of the city. This afternoon, gather for a brief walking tour before visiting St. Fagan’s Museum of Welsh Life, an open-air museum on the grounds of St. Fagan’s Castle. Enjoy a tour of Cardiff Castle, followed by our welcome dinner in one of the city’s fine restaurants.

CARDIFF

Monday, June 8  Begin the morning with a behind-the-scenes visit to the Senedd, the seat of government for Wales, where we hope to meet with a member of the National Assembly. Continue to the Victorian-era Castle Arcade for a light lunch at the famous Madame Fromage specialty shop. Then see City Hall, with its marble statues of famous figures from Welsh history. At the National Museum Cardiff, a curator will show us one of the great British art collections of the 20th century.

CARDIFF

Tuesday, June 9  Today we travel to the town of Caerleon, site of a Roman amphitheater, and visit the National Roman Legion Museum. Continue up the Wye Valley to Tintern, best known for the ruins of Tintern Abbey, beloved by poets including William Wordsworth. Stop in the small town of Hay-on-Wye, often described as “the town of books,” before afternoon tea at The Angel Hotel in Abergavenny. Return to Cardiff for an evening at leisure.
Wednesday, June 10  Depart Cardiff for Swansea, birthplace of the poet and writer Dylan Thomas. Visit the Dylan Thomas Centre and Cwmdonkin Park for a reading of Thomas’ works, and see his childhood home at 5 Cwmdonkin Drive. Continue north to the Victorian spa town of Llandrindod Wells, for dinner and check-in at The Metropole Hotel.

Thursday, June 11  This morning travel north to the town of Dolgellau to learn about the significant impact of the Quakers on this part of Wales. Visit the Bryn Mawr Farm Estate before continuing to Portmeirion. The vision of eccentric architect Clough Williams-Ellis, this model village has beautiful gardens and scenic bay views. Following afternoon tea, depart for the Imperial Hotel on the Llandudno Seafront Promenade, our home for the next three nights.

Friday, June 12  Spend the day in the beautiful Conwy Valley, beginning with a visit to Bodnant Garden, recognized as one of the finest Edwardian naturalistic gardens in the world. On a tour led by one of the gardeners, see the famous Laburnum Arch, a curved walk covered with a cascade of yellow flowers. Lunch is at Bodnant Welsh Food Centre, located on Furnace Farm. In the afternoon explore 13th-century Conwy Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and see Plas Mawr, considered Britain’s finest surviving Elizabethan town house. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

Saturday, June 13  A morning drive takes us to Snowdonia Park, where we will have a private tour of Penrhyn Castle, a neo-Norman castle situated between Snowdonia and the Menai Strait. Following lunch at leisure, visit the National Slate Museum of Wales. Continue to Betws-y-Coed, where there will be free time to explore the village. Dinner is at our hotel.
LLANDUDNO | LLANGOLLEN

Sunday, June 14 Drive east towards Llangollen this morning. Visit Plas Newydd, house of the famous Ladies of Llangollen, Lady Eleanor Butler and Miss Sarah Ponsonby. Lunch is at leisure before boarding the Llangollen Steam Railway. Cream tea will be served as we travel along the River Dee. Disembark in Corwen for a scenic drive to Ruthin Castle Hotel for dinner and check-in.

LLANGOLLEN

Monday, June 15 Begin the day at Hawarden Castle, the estate of former British Prime Minister William Ewart Gladstone. We will also tour Gladstone’s Library, the largest residential library in Britain. Continue to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, towering above the River Dee, and enjoy a canal boat ride across this engineering marvel. This evening toast a memorable trip at our farewell dinner before attending a rehearsal of the Froncysyllte Male Voice Choir.

MANCHESTER, ENGLAND | PHILADELPHIA

Tuesday, June 16 Transfer to Manchester airport for the flights home.

PROGRAM RATE PER PERSON $5,995  
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT $500

RATE INCLUDES

- Nine nights hotel accommodations, as per itinerary
- Buffet breakfast daily, four lunches, five dinners, and two teas; wine with welcome and farewell dinners
- Escorted sightseeing by private motorcoach; entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport / hotel / airport group transfers
- Enrichment program of lectures and special events
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers
- Taxes, service, and porterage fees for one suitcase per person

Not Included in Rate  International airfare; passport fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than wine at welcome and farewell dinners; personal items and expenses; trip insurance; excess baggage charges; transfers for those not on suggested group flights; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

BRYN MAWR ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION | RESERVATION APPLICATION

To reserve a place, please complete and return this form with your deposit of $1,500 per person (of which $350 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to Academic Arrangements Abroad. Mail to: Academic Arrangements Abroad, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 23rd Floor, New York, NY 10018-3721.

NAME IN FULL AS ON PASSPORT  DATE OF BIRTH

NAME IN FULL AS ON PASSPORT  DATE OF BIRTH

ADDRESS

CITY  STATE  ZIP

TELEPHONE (HOME)  (BUSINESS)

FAX  E-MAIL

Each participant must sign below. I/we confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the Terms & Conditions of this program. I/we agree to full payment by check 120 days before departure.

SIGNATURE REQUIRED  DATE

For more information, please contact Academic Arrangements Abroad
Telephone: 212.514.8921 or 800.221.1944  Fax: 212.344.7493  E-mail: trips@arrangementsabroad.com
TERMS & CONDITIONS

AIRFARE Academic Arrangements Abroad (AAA) will be pleased to assist with air travel arrangements for this program, including specially negotiated group airfare when available, suggested group flights or your own individual requests, for a processing fee of $40 per person. Complete details will be provided in your confirmation mailing.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE A deposit of $1,500 per person, payable to Academic Arrangements Abroad, of which $550 is non-refundable for administrative fees, is required with the reservation application. Final payment, by check only, must be received 120 days prior to departure.

HEALTH All participants must be in good health. This program involves extensive walking over uneven surfaces, climbing stairs at monuments and other locations not handicapped accessible, and climbing in and out of various conveyances. Any condition that may require assistance or special medical attention must be reported at the time of your reservation.

INSURANCE Trip Cancellation / Emergency Medical Evacuation / Baggage / Accidents / and Sickness Insurance Protection is strongly recommended. Cancellation Penalties Are Strictly Enforced. AAA will send an insurance application upon receipt of reservation and deposit, although you may select any insurer of your choice.

CHANGES IN ITINERARY & COSTS The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Bryn Mawr Alumnae Association (BMAA) and AAA. All prices quoted are based on prevailing fuel prices, airfares and currency exchange rates in effect at time of brochure printing and are subject to change without notice. Deviations from the scheduled itinerary are at the expense of the individual.

RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE The participation of BMAA is limited to educational sponsorship of the program described in this brochure (The Program). AAA acts only as an agent for the participant with respect to transportation, accommodations and all other services, relating to The Program. AAA, BMAA and/or their agents assume no responsibility or liability for any act, error or omission, or for any injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity that may be occasioned by reason of any defect in any aircraft, ship, train, bus or other carrier, or through neglect or default of any subcontractor or other third party, which may be used wholly or in part in the performance of their duty to the participants of The Program. The passage ticket issued by the carrier is the sole contract between the participant and the carrier. Nor will AAA or BMAA and/or their agents be responsible for loss, injury, damages or expenses to persons or property, due to illness, weather, strikes, local laws, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, acts of nature or other such causes in connection with The Program or anything beyond their reasonable control. AAA is not responsible for transportation or other program delays and changes, nor additional expenses or loss of time that may be incurred. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the benefit or well-being of the participants, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary at any time, without notice to the participants, such alterations will be made without penalty to AAA or BMAA. Additional expenses, if any, shall be borne by the participants. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the participant at all times. AAA and BMAA reserve the right to accept or decline any person as a participant at any time, or to require any participant to withdraw from The Program at their own expense when such an action is determined by AAA or BMAA to be in the best interest of the participant’s health and safety, or the general welfare of the other participants.

CANCELLATION POLICY AAA must strictly adhere to its cancellation policy to offset costs incurred prior to the commencement of The Program, which may include but are not limited to: advance payments to land operators; ship charters; communications expenses; development / promotional expenses and the loss of time that might have permitted resale of reserved space. All cancellations must be made in writing to the offices of AAA and are subject to a $550 non-refundable administrative fee. All refunds are limited to amounts actually received by AAA and are the sole responsibility of AAA; BMAA shall have no liability for refunds. At the time AAA receives written notification of cancellation, the following cancellation charges will apply: cancellations received between 120 and 91 days prior to departure, 20 percent of the program cost per person; those received between 90 and 61 days before departure, 50 percent of the program cost per person; no refunds will be given for cancellations received within 60 days of departure. No refunds are given for cancellation on or after the day of departure, or for unused portions of the tour, for any reason. Air cancellation charges, if any, will be assessed in accordance with airline regulations. All group fare tickets must be issued no less than 30 days prior to departure. NOTE: Neither AAA nor BMAA shall be liable for any airline cancellation penalties incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket. In the case of cancellation due to shortage of participants, AAA will attempt to notify all participants at least 45 days prior to departure. However, AAA reserves the right to cancel The Program prior to departure for any reason and, in such case, reimbursement of refundable costs of the trip by AAA shall constitute full settlement with the participant. In the unlikely event that a dispute arises between a participant and AAA or BMAA, the following conditions will apply: (a) the dispute will be settled by binding arbitration administered by the American Arbitration Association in New York, NY; (b) the dispute will be governed by New York Law; (c) the maximum amount of recovery to which a participant shall be entitled under any and all circumstances will be the sum of all monies actually received from the participant by AAA. The participant agrees that this is a fair and reasonable limitation of damages, of any sort whatsoever, that a participant may suffer. Upon payment of the deposit to AAA, the participant agrees to be bound by the above terms and conditions. Because these cancellation policies are strictly enforced, we strongly recommend for your protection the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. Upon receipt of your deposit, trip cancellation insurance information will be sent to you from the Bryn Mawr Alumnae Association. For questions on the insurance, please contact Sarah Doody at sdoody@bryn.edu or 610-526-5316.

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On the front cover: Ancient stone window frame at Dinas Bran Castle, Llangollen. Photo © mumgard. All images (unless otherwise noted) are © Crown copyright (2014) VisitWales.