



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE  
OF AMERICA TOURS

# ROMAN BRITAIN: Romans at the Edge of Empire



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June 20 - July 2, 2025 (13 days | 16 guests)  
with archaeologist Elizabeth M. Greene

*Archaeology-focused tours for the curious to the connoisseur*





**Elizabeth (Beth) M. Greene** is Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair in Roman Archaeology at the University of Western Ontario in Canada. Her excavation and research focus on the Roman provinces and frontiers, with particular interest in Roman Britain and the dynamic military communities that

inhabited the frontiers of the northwest provinces. Dr. Greene has been part of the archaeological team at the Roman fort at Vindolanda in northern England since 2002 and led the excavations in the North Field area of the site for a decade. Dr. Greene's involvement with the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) began in graduate school and she has advocated for archaeology in several roles in both local societies and at the national level. She has been a national lecturer for the AIA since 2014, giving talks to local societies across the USA and Canada, and she was a member of the AIA's Board of Trustees from 2018-2024. Dr. Greene is also a member of the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists, and her research is regularly featured on podcasts, radio, online, and in print media.



- # Overnight stays
- Itinerary stops
- Hadrian's Wall
- ✈ Flights
- 🚢 Cruise



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*"I liked that I did not have to worry about anything during the trip. Even when unforeseen events occurred, the tour moved on without a hitch."*

- Dean, Washington

Cover: (top) Hadrian's Wall, (bottom from left) York Minster, Granaries at Corbridge, Edinburgh Castle

Left: Roman shoes on display at Vindolanda Museum. Your lecturer has been part of the excavation team at Vindolanda since 2002.

Follow in the footsteps of the ancient Romans in Britain as you venture north from Chester, England, to Edinburgh, Scotland, with a foray along Hadrian's Wall, which was famously constructed ca. A.D. 122 along the northwest frontier of the Roman Empire. Experience a world at the edge of the Empire and amidst the natural beauty of old medieval towns, verdant countryside, and the scenic Lake District, discovering for yourself the remains of formerly vibrant Roman forts and towns, museum collections of fascinating Roman artifacts, and Rome's influence on the Britain of today.

### Highlights:

- Visit two sites that comprise the UNESCO World Heritage Site "Frontiers of the Roman Empire": **Vindolanda**, not only one of Europe's most important Roman sites but also where your AIA lecturer/host has been doing fieldwork since 2002; and **Arbeia Roman Fort**, which was a key supply base to Hadrian's Wall.
- Take a walking tour of the 1<sup>st</sup>-century A.D. Roman fortress-town of **Chester**, home to the most complete ancient city walls in Britain as well as Britain's largest Roman amphitheater.
- Explore the bustling lanes of **York**, which was established as a Roman garrison town in A.D. 71 and went on to be a Viking stronghold and prosperous medieval city.
- Drive through the breathtaking **English Lake District**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, including a **cruise excursion on Lake Windermere**, England's largest lake; and a stop at **Castlerigg Stone Circle**, which is one of the earliest Neolithic stone circles in Britain.
- Walk the streets of the Old and New Towns of **Edinburgh**, including the historic Royal Mile and Calton Hill, which was considered Edinburgh's version of Athens' Acropolis in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and are altogether a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Marvel at **museum collections** showcasing spectacular Roman finds and more, including the **Yorkshire Museum and Gardens**; **Great North Museum: Hancock**, whose collections include carved and inscribed stones from Hadrian's Wall, among many other treasures; Vindolanda's nearby **Roman Army Museum**; and Edinburgh's **National Museum of Scotland**.



Right (from top): Chester Cathedral, Arbeia Roman Fort's reconstructed Praetorium, Mile Castle at Hadrian's Wall





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# ITINERARY

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

## Friday, June 20, 2025: Depart home

### Saturday, June 21: Arrive Manchester, ENGLAND | Transfer to Chester | The Grosvenor Museum

Arrive at Manchester Airport (MAN), where you will be met and transferred as a group (time TBD) to our hotel in Chester. En route to the hotel, we will stop at The Grosvenor Museum in Chester to view the Newstead Roman Gallery. The Gallery displays Roman artifacts that tell the story of Chester's legions and fortress, as well as Roman tombstones that provide insight into the lives of the soldiers, slaves, women, and children who lived in Chester. After we check-in to our hotel, we will gather for dinner at a local restaurant. *Overnight at the 4-star [Hotel Indigo Chester](#) for two nights.* (D)

### Sunday, June 22: Chester: Walking tour – Roman amphitheater, Chester Cathedral | PM at leisure | Welcome dinner

This morning set out on a walking tour of Chester, which was established as a Roman fortress in the 1<sup>st</sup> century A.D. and today has the most complete ancient city walls in Britain. We will take in the ruins of Britain's largest Roman amphitheater, dating back to the late 1<sup>st</sup> century A.D., which was used for entertainment and military training. Then, we will continue to Chester Cathedral, the site itself thought to have been used for Christian worship since Roman times. The present building is a Benedictine Abbey built over an earlier Saxon Minster, and retains much of its original 12<sup>th</sup>-century structure. Enjoy an independent lunch and time on your own in Chester until we gather this evening for a welcome dinner. (B,D)

### Monday, June 23: York: Walking tour, York Minster, Baile Hill

After breakfast, we drive to York (Roman Eboracum), established by the Romans in A.D. 71. Upon arrival we take a walking tour of this city that played a pivotal role in the history of England as a Roman garrison town (Emperor Hadrian held court here during his campaign), a Viking stronghold, and a prosperous medieval city. Walk along the medieval city walls, visit the ruined 11<sup>th</sup>-century St. Mary's Abbey, and marvel at the exterior of the imposing Gothic cathedral. After an independent lunch, we visit York Minster, a medieval masterpiece of stone and glass in the heart of York. The site it sits upon is believed to be near or in a former Roman *principia* (military headquarters). After checking in to our hotel, we will explore Baile Hill, the motte and only remaining feature of Old Baile (Baile Hill Castle), constructed in the 11<sup>th</sup> century following the Norman conquest. The balance of the day and dinner are on your own. *Overnight at the 4-star [Hilton York](#) for two nights.* (B)

### Tuesday, June 24: York: Yorkshire Museum and Gardens, Optional tour of the Roman Baths Museum OR the Jorvik Viking Center

This morning we visit the Yorkshire Museum, home to nearly one million archaeological objects from prehistoric times up until the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The majority of its Roman objects come from York and Yorkshire. Objects such as the statue of Mars; the bust of Constantine; and the tombstone of Lucius Duccius Rufinus, standard bearer of the Ninth Legion; have all been found in York. The Museum Gardens are famous for their collection of trees, shrubs, perennials, and bulbs, including six county Champion Trees ranging between 80 and 150 years old. After an independent lunch, take an optional tour of the Roman Baths Museum or of the Jorvik Viking Center. The Roman Baths are located in the cellar of a pub and were originally built by the Ninth Legion sometime between A.D. 71 and 122. Once believed to be around 200 square meters, today only the caldarium (hot room), a small section of the frigidarium (cold room), and a single plunge pool have been excavated. The Jorvik Viking Center was first discovered during a five-year archaeological excavation named the Coppergate Dig, which produced 40,000 different archaeological layers and discovered over 250,000 pieces of

Photos (from top): Chester's Roman wall, statue of Constantine in York, York Minster, Castlerigg Stone Circle



pottery, 5 metric tons of animal bones, and 40,000 individually interesting objects. Visit the artifact gallery to view some of the 1,000 items on display. The balance of the day and dinner are on your own. (B)

**Wednesday, June 25: Castlerigg Stone Circle | Keswick | Windermere Lake Cruise | Optional hike | Windermere**

This morning we depart York and journey to the Lake District. Our first stop is at Castlerigg Stone Circle, among the earliest Neolithic British circles. Enjoy panoramic views with the mountains of Helvellyn and High Seat as a backdrop. We will drive through the breathtaking Lake District National Park and stop in Keswick for a walk. After an independent lunch, we continue to Windermere and enjoy a cruise on Windermere Lake, England's largest lake. Time permitting, and for those of us feeling adventurous, enjoy a walk around Ambleside to view Roman remains; or hike to Ambleside Roman Fort, a 2<sup>nd</sup>-century fort with large granaries, built under Hadrian's rule. This evening we check-in to our hotel and then gather for dinner. *Overnight at the 4-star [Merewood Country House Hotel](#) for two nights.* (B,D)

**Thursday, June 26: Hardknott Roman Fort and Thermae | Ravenglass Roman Bath House | Windermere**

After breakfast, we drive over the mountain pass of Wrynose Pass and the hill pass of Hardknott Pass to visit Hardknott Roman Fort and Thermae, a remote fort founded under Hadrian's rule in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. Remains of the three most important buildings—the granaries, headquarters building, and commandant's house—are well-preserved at the center of the fort. Hardknott was one of three forts that secured Roman control of the Lake District. It offers spectacular views as far as the Isle of Man. We will stop for an independent lunch, perhaps at a country pub, before taking a short drive to Ravenglass Roman Bath House, one of the tallest Roman structures surviving in northern Britain. Briefly explore this well-preserved Roman building, highlighting the culture that Romans brought to Britain, before heading back to Windermere along the scenic Cumbrian coastal road. This evening, we gather for dinner at our hotel. (B,D)

**Friday, June 27: Newcastle upon Tyne: Great North Museum: Hancock | South Shields: Arbeia Roman Fort | Matfen**

We depart the Lake District this morning and journey to Newcastle upon Tyne. There we visit the Great North Museum: Hancock, a museum of natural history and ancient civilizations. At the core of its Roman collection is a group of carved and inscribed stones from Hadrian's Wall and its outpost forts and hinterland sites. Roman pottery, jewelry, armor, weapons, and domestic items are also part of the collection. After an independent lunch we continue to South Shields, a coastal town in South Tyneside and home to Arbeia, a Roman fort that guarded the main sea route to Hadrian's Wall. We will spend time at this full-scale Roman reconstruction exploring significant finds from Roman Britain, all found in and around Arbeia, including the tombstone of Regina who was first a slave, then a freedwoman, then the wife of a merchant. Afterwards, check-in to our hotel and gather for dinner. *Overnight at the 4-star [Matfen Hall](#) hotel for two nights.* (B,D)

**Saturday, June 28: Corbridge Roman Town | Chesters Roman Fort and Museum | Temple of Mithras | Matfen**

After breakfast, we take a short drive to Corbridge Roman Town, a once bustling town and supply base until the end of Roman Britain in the early 5<sup>th</sup> century, located a couple of miles from Hadrian's Wall. Walk through the remains of the town's streets and experience where Romans and civilians would rest, relax, and pick up food and provisions. Corbridge was only one of two considerably sized towns in the Hadrian's Wall area. The on-site museum displays one of the most significant finds in Roman history, the Corbridge 'Hoard,' one of the most influential Roman "time capsules" ever discovered in the area. After an independent lunch in the village of Corbridge, we take a short drive to Chesters Roman Fort, the most complete Roman cavalry fort in Britain. Visit the ruins of the bath house, commanding officer's house, and cavalry soldiers' quarters. We will also visit the fort's museum



Photos (from top): Wooden wheel display at the Roman Army Museum, Ravenglass Roman Bath House, Victoria Street in Edinburgh, Melrose Abbey





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and see the famous Clayton Collection, a collection of inscriptions and sculptures, painted wall plaster, delicate glasswork, and intriguing graffiti. Next, we visit the Temple of Mithras, built by soldiers of Carrawburgh. The temple, built ca. A.D. 200, was once part of the civilian settlement established outside a nearby fort. We return to Matfen for the balance of the day at leisure to explore the lovely estate grounds of our hotel and have an independent dinner. (B)

### **Sunday, June 29: Vindolanda | Roman Army Museum | Edinburgh, SCOTLAND**

Today, on our way to Edinburgh, Scotland, we stop at Vindolanda, which was built by the Roman army before Hadrian's Wall existed and eventually became an important construction and garrison base for the Wall. Located on the northern frontier of Britain, it is one of Europe's most important Roman archaeological sites and is particularly dear to your AIA lecturer, Dr. Greene, who has been part of the archaeological team at Vindolanda since 2002. We have an independent lunch at Vindolanda's café and then visit the nearby Roman Army Museum, showcasing findings from Vindolanda. The objects tell the story of life on the frontier, including the only surviving helmet crest made of delicate hair moss. Continue on to Edinburgh, where we check-in to our hotel and then gather for dinner. *Overnight at the 4-star [Kimpton Charlotte Square](#) for three nights.* (B,D)

### **Monday, June 30: Edinburgh: Walking tour, National Museum of Scotland | PM at leisure**

This morning we walk the medieval streets of Edinburgh, learning about its impressive history. Walk along the Royal Mile, a bustling thoroughfare filled with stunning architecture; Princes Street Gardens, a 37-acre park separating Old Town from the New Town; and Calton Hill, which offers panoramic views of the city and is home to neoclassical structures such as the National Monument, City Observatory, and Dugald Stewart Monument. Next, we visit the sizeable Prehistoric and Roman Archaeology collection at the National Museum of Scotland. The balance of the day and dinner are on your own in Edinburgh. (B)

### **Tuesday, July 1: Scottish Borders: Abbotsford, Melrose Abbey | Edinburgh | Farewell dinner**

After breakfast, we travel to the Scottish Borders to explore the area. We stop at Abbotsford, the former home of writer Sir Walter Scott, which sits on the banks of the River Tweed. Its rooms are just the way they were left at the time of Scott's death, including his personal library. Stroll through the stunning gardens first created from Scott's imagination. After an independent lunch in Melrose we visit the grounds, cloister, and museum of Melrose Abbey, a focal point of the Borders. The Abbey, founded in 1136 by David I, is considered a model of medieval church architecture anywhere in the British Isles. Return to Edinburgh and freshen up before we gather for a farewell dinner. (B,D)

### **Wednesday, July 2: Fly home**

Transfer this morning to Edinburgh Airport (EDI) for flights homeward. (B)

## What to Expect



**ACTIVE:** Must be able to walk three or more miles per day on mostly uneven terrain, and up and down inclines and steps.

You must be able to make long walks, unassisted, over uneven terrain and up and down steps. Some sites require strenuous and/or brisk walking or climbing, sometimes with difficult footing. Participants who are not able to walk or stand unassisted for extended periods are kindly advised not to join this tour. All participants are expected to be physically active and not be an impediment to others on excursions, to enjoy traveling as part of a group, and to be ready to experience cultural differences. All participants will be required to follow safety/sanitization protocols set forth by Sponsors/Operator, local staff, and host country laws. Any participant showing signs of illness will be asked to wear a mask when in close proximity to others. If the tour manager decides that a participant cannot visit a site safely or in a timely manner, their judgment will be final. Where possible, an alternate activity may be suggested; additional costs may apply. If you have any questions about your ability to participate, we suggest that you visit your personal physician with this brochure in hand and discuss whether or not this program is appropriate for you. Hotels have been chosen for their excellent locations and generous comfort. Included meals are of a very high quality. At the time of year we visit, the average temperature in this region ranges from the low 50s F at night to the mid-60s F during the day. June is considered a summer month in the United Kingdom, however there is always a chance for moderate rainfall and participants should come prepared for pleasant, but potentially wet, weather. *Complete pre-departure details will be sent to participants.*



Photos (from left): Architectural detail in Edinburgh, “The Water of Life” sculpture at Chester Cathedral, York city wall

### Tour Prices Per Person (11 nights)

Double Occupancy (14-16 participants).....	\$8,495
Double Occupancy (12-13 participants).....	\$9,145
Single Supplement ( <i>limited availability</i> ) .....	\$2,145

*Single room supplement will be charged when requested or required.  
With fewer than 12 participants, a small group surcharge may be added.*

### Prices Include:

- Leadership of **AIA lecturer/host Elizabeth M. Greene**, plus a professional **tour manager/guide**
- **Eleven nights at well-located, 4-star hotels**
- **Delicious meals:** breakfast daily and 7 dinners, including welcome and farewell dinners with wine, beer, or soft drinks. All meals include water plus coffee/tea. (*Lunches are independent to explore personal culinary interests.*)
- **Excursions** and sightseeing as per itinerary
- Ground transportation by **modern, air-conditioned vehicle**
- **Group airport transfers on arrival and departure dates**
- **Personal listening audio devices** during excursions
- **All gratuities** to the tour manager/guide, drivers, waiters for included meals, and porters
- **Baggage handling** at hotels
- **VAT, local taxes, and service charges**
- **Comprehensive pre-departure information**, including a suggested reading/media guide, travel guide, and packing list

### Flights & Transfers

Airfare from/to home is not included. Group airport transfers (times TBD) are included on arrival at Manchester Airport (MAN) and for departure from Edinburgh Airport (EDI). Once you have received your final payment invoice, you should book your flights. Your flight itinerary must be provided to our office prior to departure. If you are considering booking non-refundable airline tickets before this time, please contact our office first. *We do not accept any liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets.*

**Prices Do Not Include:** Airfare from/to home; passport and visa fees; airport fees and departure taxes; cost of personal, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; transportation of excess baggage; meals and beverages other than those indicated; personal tips; items of a personal nature such as medical expenses, laundry, taxi, telephone, and fax charges; optional excursions or deviations from scheduled tour; other items not listed as included.

**Payments:** A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve your space and is payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or check made payable to “Eos AIA-RomanBritain6/25.” Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure and must be by check, ACH transfer, or wire transfer only; credit cards are not accepted for final payment. By submitting your deposit you are bound by the terms and conditions delineated throughout this brochure and elsewhere published.

**Participant Cancellation Fees:** All requests by participants for cancellations must be received in writing by AIA Tours. Cancellations received at least 180 days prior to departure (December 22, 2024) are refunded less a cancellation fee of \$250 per person. Cancellations received from 179 through 91 days (March 21, 2025) prior to departure forfeit their full deposit. Cancellations received from 90 through 76 days prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee equal to 50% of the tour cost. Cancellations received 75 days or less prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee of 100% of the tour cost. *For this and other reasons, participants are strongly encouraged to purchase trip cancellation insurance. Information will be provided with confirmation of receipt of your deposit.*

**Note:** Prices are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect at the time of publication and are subject to change prior to departure. Substantial changes in tariffs, exchange rates, and the price of fuel, services, and labor may increase the cost of arrangements significantly, and we reserve the right to alter our prices.

Prices, itinerary, accommodations, and leader are subject to change. Prices quoted are based on group participation and no refunds will be made for any part of the program in which you choose not to participate. It is understood that refunds cannot be made to participants who do not complete the tour for whatever reason.

Due to space limitations, this is abbreviated information. Complete terms and conditions are available upon confirmation or upon request and can be viewed online at [www.aiatours.org](http://www.aiatours.org).



**For questions, and to reserve your space, please contact AIA Tours at:**  
800-748-6262 | Toll: 603-756-2884 | Fax: 603-756-2922 | [aia@studytours.org](mailto:aia@studytours.org) | [www.aiatours.org](http://www.aiatours.org)  
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The Temple of Mithras

*"It was wonderful not to have to worry about hotels, meals, transportation, security and to have our wonderful tour manager to take care of any concerns... Touring with a small group definitely added to our experience."*

- Annette, Ohio

**ROMAN BRITAIN:**  
 Romans at the Edge of Empire  
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Abbotsford, Scottish Borders



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To fill out an online reservation form, [click here](#). Or, print and mail or fax this form to the address below.



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE  
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RESERVATION FORM

## ROMAN BRITAIN

Romans at the Edge of Empire

June 20 - July 2, 2025 (13 days | 16 guests)  
with archaeologist Elizabeth M. Greene

To hold your reservation for seven days while this form and your deposit are in the mail, please contact us at 800-748-6262 or [aia@studytours.org](mailto:aia@studytours.org).

Name 1  
(as it appears on passport)

Name 2  
(as it appears on passport)

Address

City State Zip

Phone (home) Phone (cell)

Email(s)

I/We have read the 'What to Expect' section and am/are physically able to participate fully on the program.

Are you traveling with any other parties on this program? Yes, \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about this tour?  eNewsletter  mailing  website  friends/family  other \_\_\_\_\_

### ACCOMMODATIONS:

(Accommodation preferences are not guaranteed.)

Double (one bed)  Twin (two beds)  Single

I will be sharing with: \_\_\_\_\_

Share - please assign a roommate (not guaranteed)

Please share my contact information with potential roommate(s).

### RESERVATIONS & PAYMENT:

A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to confirm a reservation. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure.

Please note that credit cards are not accepted for final payment. All prices and payments are in US dollars.

### DEPOSIT TYPE (please check one):

Check payable to: Eos AIA-RomanBritain6/25  Visa  Master Card  American Express  Already paid by phone

CC#

Exp. Date 3- or 4-Digit Code

Name on Card

Please complete this reservation form, choose/enclose your method of deposit, and sign the release statement below.

Submit via email, mail, or fax to:

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By signing this form, you are acknowledging that you have read and agree to all Terms & Conditions delineated throughout.

Signature (participant #1) Date

Signature (participant #2) Date



## TERMS AND CONDITIONS, RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION AGREEMENT

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