



Tour Information



James Watt - Father of The Industrial Revolution





The tour commences and concludes at the **Marriott Hotel, Birmingham.**

12 Hagley Road

Five Ways

Birmingham

B16 8SJ

Tel: 0121 4521142

Please note that transport to the hotel is not included in the price of the tour.



Transport

If you are travelling by car:

From the South: At junction 19 of the M1, take the M6 exit to Coventry/Birmingham and continue on M6 for approx. 36 KM. Take the exit toward A38(M), Keep left, follow signs for A38(M)/Birmingham (Cent.) and merge onto A38(M), Continue onto Aston Express Way/A38, and after approx. 2 KM, take the exit toward New Street and continue onto Suffolk Street Queensway. At the roundabout, take the 3rd exit onto Holloway Head/B4127, turn left onto Wheeleys Ln/B4127, turn right onto Islington Row Middleway/A4540. At Five Ways Roundabout, take the 2nd exit and your destination will be on the left.

From the North: Leave the M1 at junction 11A and follow the M6 for Birmingham M5. Continue onto M6 and take the exit toward A38 (M). Keep right, follow signs for A38(M) and merge onto A38(M), continue onto Aston Express Way / A38 and keep right and continue on Great Charles Street Queensway/A38. Take the exit toward New Street and continue onto Suffolk Street Queensway. At the roundabout, take the 3rd exit onto Holloway Head/B4127, continue to follow B4127. Turn left onto Wheelleys Ln/B4127. Turn right onto Islington Row Middleway/A4540 and at Five Ways Roundabout, take the 2nd exit. Destination will be on the left.

If you are travelling by train: The nearest train station is Birmingham New Street station – 3.5 KM away



Accommodation

Marriott Hotel, Birmingham

Relax and unwind in one of the spacious, well-appointed hotel rooms, which include plush pillowtop bedding, a flat-screen TV, high-speed Wi-Fi, 24-hour in-room dining and more. Additional amenities for your stay in Birmingham city centre include a leisure club with a fully equipped gym and an indoor pool, as well as a tranquil spa and expertly crafted American-style cuisine at the signature Brew Bar Lounge.

More information can be found via the hotel's website: <https://www.marriott.co.uk/hotels/travel/bhxbh-birmingham-marriott-hotel/>

Check-in and departure from the hotel

On the day of arrival, you will be able to check-in at the hotel from 15.00, and the tour manager will meet you in the evening at the welcome reception.

On the last day, the tour will not finish at approximately 17.30 so you should check with your tour manager, or the hotel reception, where luggage should be stored until your departure.

Extra nights

If you have booked to stay an extra night at the hotel, this is on bed and breakfast basis and check out from the hotel is at 11.00.

Dining

On the first night, a private dinner with wine is provided at the hotel and included in the price of the tour. For the second evening, dinner will be provided in the hotel restaurant. Breakfast on all days of your stay plus one lunch is included in the price, but meals other than these stated are not included.

Special requests

If you haven't already done so, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.



Places Visited

Lunar Society Heritage Trail

This walk highlights the leading role Birmingham played in the creation of the modern world through the scientific discoveries, shared conversations and informal meetings of a remarkable group of friends. The city centre walk takes in the surviving historic sites most closely associated with the Society's members, together with the places where one can still see examples of their work and influence. Highlights include the statues of Watt and Priestley in Chamberlain Square, Centenary Square, the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery to see its exhibition 'Birmingham: its people, its history,' which looks at the city through an 18th century visitor's eyes, the Birmingham Library where Dr Malcolm Dick will show you some special material relating to James Watt.

<https://www.lunarsociety.org.uk/the-lunar-society-heritage-trail/>

Soho House

Soho House was the elegant home of the industrialist and entrepreneur Matthew Boulton from 1766 to 1809. The house has been beautifully restored and reflects the fashions and tastes of the late Georgian period. There's also the chance to see some of the products of Boulton's nearby factory – where buttons and buckles, clocks and vases, and silver and Sheffield plate tableware were made – and where he developed the steam engine in partnership with James Watt.

Soho House was also a favourite meeting place of the Lunar Society, a leading Enlightenment group. The Lunar Society would meet every month on the night of the full moon to dine, conduct experiments, and discuss philosophical matters of the day. Members of the society included Erasmus Darwin, James Watt and Joseph Priestley who all gathered around the Lunar Room table and engaged in a lively exchange of ideas which inspired many new discoveries and inventions.

<https://www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/soho>

Aston Hall

Aston Hall is a magnificent seventeenth century red-brick mansion situated in a picturesque public park on the north side of Birmingham. Built between 1618 and 1635 for Sir Thomas Holte and home to James Watt Junior from 1817-1848, Aston Hall is steeped in history. Now a grade I listed building, the hall is restored to its former Jacobean splendour and is hugely popular with visitors of all ages. Walk through the stunning interiors and see the home that received royalty, was besieged during the English Civil War and inspired an author.

<https://www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/aston>

St Mary's Church, Handsworth

St Mary's Church, Handsworth, also known as Handsworth Old Church, is a Grade II listed Anglican church in Handsworth, Birmingham, England. Its ten-acre grounds are contiguous with Handsworth Park and it is just off the Birmingham Outer Circle and south of the former Handsworth Wood railway station. It is noteworthy as the resting place of famous progenitors of the industrial age and has been described as "the cathedral of the Industrial Revolution".

<http://handsworthstmary.org/history/>

Your Speaker

Dr Malcolm Dick is Director of the Centre for West Midlands History and Lecturer in Regional and Local History at the University of Birmingham, UK. He is also Editor-in-Chief of History West Midlands: www.historywm.com and co-director of the Centre for Printing History and Culture www.cphc.org.uk. He ran two lottery-funded history projects between 2000 and 2004: Millennibrum and Revolutionary Players: www.revolutionaryplayers.org.uk The latter, which focussed on the West Midlands during the Industrial Revolution introduced him to the Lunar Men. Subsequently, Malcolm edited books on Joseph Priestley (2005), Matthew Boulton (2009 and 2013) and Erasmus Darwin (2010) and wrote books and articles on Birmingham and ethnic community history. Two edited publications with Liverpool University Press include Birmingham - the Workshop of the World (2016) with Carl Chinn and John Baskerville - Art and Industry in the Enlightenment (2017) with Caroline Archer.

Dr Malcolm Dick will give the following talk during the tour:

'James Watt: The Enlightenment, Invention and Birmingham.'

Your tour manager

Dr Scott Anderson is a Senior Lecturer in the History of Art and Design, who was a professional archaeologist for ten years before his interests shifted to the world of art, antiques and auctioneering. In 1994 he joined the team at Southampton Institute (now Southampton Solent University) as a Lecturer in Fine Arts Valuation, the only BA (Hons) degree course of its kind to look at the commercial art world. He also has a particular interest in architecture and in recent years has taught courses on the history and theory of interior design, and art and design history. Now, as a Senior Lecturer, he concentrates on teaching, research and publication. Scott has written extensively, in learned journals and popular magazines, on both ancient and 19th-century ceramics, Roman archaeology, and Victorian and Edwardian art and design. He is an Honorary Fellow of the National Association of Valuers and television credits include BBC's Flog It!

Scott will give the following talk during the tour:

'The Industrial Revolution – A Story of Context and Evolution'

Practical Information






Tour manager - Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operates according to plan. If you have any problems or questions please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot, and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.

Tipping –To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services.

Walking Content – This tour has been graded a 4 out of 5 for walking difficulty.

Walking difficulty: 

Please see the key below for an explanation of the footprint symbols:

Very little walking involved	
Relaxed easy pace, mainly walking from coach to site	
Some walking between sites, good, flat walking surfaces	
Walking between sites, lots of standing for viewings	
On your feet all day, uneven terrain (cobblestones etc)	

Insurance

Although this is a UK holiday please note that, should you cancel your holiday, the amount paid is non-refundable. For this reason you may wish to take out insurance just in case an unforeseen event caused you to have to cancel the tour. As well as covering cancellations, your travel insurance will also cover your baggage and personal belongings in case they are lost or stolen.

Emergencies

Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:

020 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 0900-1700), telephone our emergency staff on:

07841 023807 or

020 7987 5910 or

07831 133079

PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.

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