



100  
YEARS

# The Bard's Queens on Board

Aboard Queen Mary 2 and In and About London

The English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition

40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour, **July 7-17, 2023**



# Your 11-Day Itinerary

## Days 1-2: Aboard Queen Mary 2



*B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, R = Reception, D= Dinner*

**Activity Level:** There will be standing and walking for extended periods during visits to historic homes and museums or city tours. Guests should be sure-footed on stairs and able to walk at least one mile on paved and unpaved surfaces.

### Friday, July 7th (R, D)

Embark on the Queen Mary 2 from New York Brooklyn Cruise Terminal. Check-in between 1 and 3:45 p.m. Welcome reception for ESU USA members followed by dinner.

*Overnight at sea*

### Saturday, July 8th (B, L, D)

Prof. Catherine Loomis kicks off her lecture series with The Queens of his Heart, which provides a brief biography of Shakespeare told through the women in his life.

*Overnight at sea*



## Days 3-7: Aboard Queen Mary 2

### **Sunday, July 9th (B, L, D)**

Today's lecture, Queens of Comedy, takes a careful look at Titania, Queen of the Fairies, and her role as both a powerful queen and a helpless lover in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

*Overnight at sea*

### **Monday, July 10th (B, L, D)**

Our lecture on Queens in History looks at the evolution of one of his queens, Margaret of Anjou, who over the course of four plays transforms herself from a maiden to a warrior to a Fury.

*Overnight at sea*

### **Tuesday, July 11th (B, L, D)**

An evening lecture, *Will to Boot*, and *Will in Overplus*, talks about Shakespeare's (very) bawdy language and his understanding of a variety of intimate relationships.

*Overnight at sea*

### **Wednesday, July 12th (B, L, D)**

Queens of Romance, our lecture today, shows how *The Winter's Tale* showcases Shakespeare's most complex female characters, Queen Hermione.

*Overnight at sea*

### **Thursday, July 13th (B, L, D)**

Today's lecture, *Tragic Queens*, surveys the many queens – among them Gertrude, Lady Macbeth, and Cleopatra—who meet unhappy ends for somehow causing the death of a male hero.

*Overnight at sea*



**Dr. Catherine Loomis** holds a PhD in Renaissance Literature from the University of Rochester, and an MA in Shakespeare and Performance from the Shakespeare Institute in Stratford-upon-Avon. From 1997 until 2017 she taught Shakespeare and other literature courses at the University of New Orleans, leaving as a tenured full professor. She has also taught at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Dr. Loomis is the author of *William Shakespeare: A Documentary Volume* (2002), a collection of the documents we use to construct Shakespeare's biography, and of *The Death of Elizabeth I: Remembering and Reconstructing the Virgin Queen* (2010), a study of the literary response to the death of Queen Elizabeth I. With Dr. Sid Ray, she is the co-editor of *Shaping Shakespeare for Performance: The Bear Stage* (2015), a collection of essays on the staging practices used by Shakespeare and his contemporaries. Dr. Loomis has published numerous scholarly essays on Shakespeare and Queen Elizabeth I, and serves as president of the Queen Elizabeth I Society, a group of scholars dedicated to the study of Elizabethan history, art history, and literature.





## Days 8-11: In and About London

### Friday, July 14th (B, L)

Morning disembarkation from the QM2 in Southampton, England. Special visit at Knole with owners Robert and Jane Sackville-West followed by lunch at a wine estate. Visit Hever Castle before arriving in London and checking in at Dukes London in Mayfair.

*Overnight London*

### Saturday, July 15th (B, D)

Guided tour at the National Portrait Gallery of portraits of Shakespeare's queens. Opportunity to see the First Folio at the British Library. An afternoon at Shakespeare's Globe including a matinee performance of *Midsummer's Night's Dream* and behind-the-scenes tour.

*Overnight London*

### Sunday, July 16th (B, L, R, D)

Excursion to Hatfield House, home of Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, 7th Marquess of Salisbury, for a before-hours, guided tour of the House and, hopefully, the Old Palace. Lunch in the country before returning to London. Special evening at Dartmouth House, home of The English-Speaking Union, with a tour of this historic house, reception and farewell dinner.

*Overnight London*

### Monday, July 17th (B, optional L)

Optional guided walking tour of the Inns of Court, including references to Shakespeare and the Elizabethan world, followed by lunch in Middle Temple Hall. Transfer to LHR or extend your stay.



*Hever Castle*



*Hatfield House*



*Dartmouth House*

# Optional Extensions

**Oxford Experience:** Sunday, 16th July to Saturday, 22nd July  
***Days in the Life of William Shakespeare***

[conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/days-in-the-life-of-william-shakespeare?code=O22I304OER](https://conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/days-in-the-life-of-william-shakespeare?code=O22I304OER)

Shakespeare was a playwright, an actor and a businessman. His theatre stood among brothels and bear baiting pits, but he performed in front of kings and queens. He lived in London, and in Stratford-upon-Avon, and with his actors he toured around England. This course will take these facets of Shakespeare's life, each imagined as a typical day, and discuss how their influence can be seen in some of his best-known plays.

*Seminars meet each weekday morning, with afternoons free for course-related field trips, individual study, or exploring the many places of interest in and around the city.*

*Fees from £1,415 with lunch and dinner but without accommodations, to £1,995 with accommodations and three meals*

**Shakespeare Birthplace Trust:** Monday, 17th July to Sunday, 23rd July  
***'Page to Stage' immersive week with Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in Stratford-upon-Avon***

[shakespeare.org.uk/explore-shakespeare/leisure-courses/living-shakespeare](https://shakespeare.org.uk/explore-shakespeare/leisure-courses/living-shakespeare)

Immerse yourself in the language and world of Shakespeare with experts from the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. Based in the historic sites of Harvard House and Hall's Croft, you will enjoy interactive, illustrated talks from eminent scholars on a range of topics including: Shakespeare's Life, Times and Legacy; Shakespeare in Performance; Music in Shakespeare's Theatre; The First Folio in its anniversary year; current research trends in Shakespeare Studies. There will also be an opportunity to learn more about the Trust's treasures held in its archives and collections through a Q&A with its collections' experts. The course will include behind the scenes tours and museum visits as well performances at the world-renowned Royal Shakespeare Company and Globe theatres. [July schedule will be available in February.] To set you up for the theatre visits you will engage in pre-performance talks on the plays being seen, along with facilitated group post-performance discussions and a chance to talk with members of the RSC's acting company.

*Fee to be determined in January, and will include accommodations, admission to all sites, meals as listed, performance tickets, transportation to the Globe and airport transfers. An ESU representative will also be present. Enjoy every planned activity or explore Stratford at your leisure.*

# 11-Day Tour Price

Per Person, based on double occupancy: **\$9,900.00**

Single Supplement: **\$2,895.00**

*Tour Price is based on a minimum of 15 participants, and a maximum of 20.*

## Stateroom upgrade options on the Queen Mary 2

ESU USA members are confirmed in Balcony Staterooms, which are 248 s.f. and offer a choice of a King or Twin Beds. The following upgrades are subject to availability, with per cabin supplements for seven nights, as follows:

- Britannia Club Balcony Stateroom (248 s.f.; deck 12 or 13; access to Britannia Club Restaurant)  
**\$784 single or double**, i.e. \$392 per person, double
- Princess Grill Suite (381 s.f.; deck 10; access to the Princess Grill Restaurant)  
**\$6,156 single or double**, i.e. \$3,078 per person, double
- Queens Grill Suite (560 s.f.; decks 10 & 11; access to the Queens Grill Restaurant)  
**\$8,626 single or double**, i.e. \$4,313 per person, double

For more detailed cabin descriptions, see here:

[cunard.com/en-us/cruise-ships/queen-mary-2/queen-mary-2-accommodation](https://www.cunard.com/en-us/cruise-ships/queen-mary-2/queen-mary-2-accommodation)

## Room upgrade options at Dukes London

ESU USA members are confirmed in Balcony Staterooms, which are 248 s.f. and offer a choice of a King or Twin Beds. The following upgrades are subject to availability, with per cabin supplements for seven nights, as follows:

- Deluxe Room (269-290 s.f.; King or Twin Beds): **\$210** single; **\$330** double
- Executive Room (312 s.f.; King or Twin Beds): **\$420** single; **\$560** double

For more detailed room descriptions, see here: [dukeshotel.com/rooms-and-suites](https://www.dukeshotel.com/rooms-and-suites)

## Other Options

Walking tour of the Inns of Court including lunch in Middle Temple Hall: **\$45 per person**

## Questions?

Contact **Rossana Ivanova** at The English-Speaking Union,  
144 East 39th Street, New York, NY 10016

Email: [rivanova@esuus.org](mailto:rivanova@esuus.org)

Cell: **(862)-224-4244**

## What's Included:

- Ten nights' accommodation total, consisting of seven nights' accommodation on board the Queen Mary 2 in a Balcony Stateroom, and three nights' accommodation at Dukes London in a Superior Room, including taxes
- Cunard Care coverage for trip cancellation relating to the cruise only. Go to Cunard's website for details: [cunard.com/en-us/advice-and-policies/cunardcare-guest-protection](https://www.cunard.com/en-us/advice-and-policies/cunardcare-guest-protection)
- Six on-board lectures with Prof. Catherine Loomis
- Meals on board the Queen Mary 2: Breakfast daily, 6 lunches, 7 dinners including one pre-dinner drinks reception
- Meals in England as follows: Full English Breakfast daily, two lunches, two dinners including one pre-dinner drinks reception
- Coach transportation as indicated in the Itinerary
- Tours as indicated in the itinerary
- Gratuities at included meals and for guides
- Portage in and out at Dukes London
- Service charges and taxes
- Complete pre-departure documentation and materials including reading list, travel tips, and destination information

## What's Not Included:

- Airfare, taxes and fuel charges
- Airport portage
- Individual transfers to and from the airport
- Queen Mary 2 onboard account charges (to be settled the night before you disembark), including:
  - Luggage handling @ \$2-5 per bag
  - Bar, wine and spa/salon services
  - Gratuity for all bar and wine (mandatory) – calculated per purchase @ 15%. If you buy a Cunard drinks package, a 15% gratuity will be added to the price of the package to cover tips.
  - Gratuity for all spa/salon services (mandatory) – calculated per purchase @ 12.5%.
  - Daily gratuities for hotel and dining services (you may opt out or adjust this amount at the Guest Services desk) – calculated daily. In 2022, daily gratuities were \$11.50 per person, per night for guests staying in Britannia Staterooms, and \$13.50 per person, per night for guests in Grill Suites. *You may also tip above and beyond these amounts if you wish. For your personal cabin steward, you may leave money in an envelope for them in your room the morning of disembarkation or tip them personally on their last day. The guest services desk will supply envelopes to those who ask for them.*
  - Other optional products and services such as Alternative Dining, Specialty Food Items, Drinks not covered by the Drinks Package, Corkage Fee, Private Group Functions, and Spa Services that are not part of the voyage fare may contain a separate service charge which will automatically be added to your account and distributed to our crew members.
- Fees relating to applying for or renewing your passport
- Meals and beverages not already specified in the itinerary
- Personal items such as telephone calls, room service, valet service, a la carte orders, specialty wines and liquors, laundry charges
- Travel extensions and tour deviations
- Entry or departure fees levied by local governments
- Personal insurance for health, baggage, and tour cancellation or interruption
- Any other items not specifically included in the itinerary.