

MMTour REPORT 2025 by Dr. Lynnda Nadien

The 2025 Magical History Tour Report presented by www.LiverpoolTours.com

Respectfully Submitted

By The Numbers:

Total number of steps/approximations: 71, 065

Total number of miles walked: 39.9

So proud of the above-mentioned accomplishments!

Dear Beatles Diary: I had previously traveled with this Magical History Tour in 1996 (which is almost primitive), but having the privilege of traveling again in the 'modern' era was an incredible opportunity and was basically another trip of a lifetime! Our tourhost, Charles!!!, was with us every 'step' of the way!

We met as a group at JFK International Airport where we became fast friends. You could feel the excitement in the air as we mingled at the gate and immediately started sharing stories, all the while trying (but not succeeding) to contain the excitement of this trip to London and Liverpool!

The flight was incredible, and before we knew it, we were landing at London's Heathrow Airport. We gathered our gear and headed to a beautiful and spacious coach for the start of the tour in London Town! We should have been tired, but we more so amped up to start this first magical day! We met our tour-guide, Colin, and right off the bat he was truly amazing!



Tour-Host Charles!!! and London Tour-Guide Colin Photo by Rosalie Fredsell

We began our adventure in Chiswick Park, snapping endless photos, including our first group shot. This was where The Beatles filmed promotional videos for "Paperback Writer" and "Rain." We covered the grounds; everyone was willing and able to climb every mountain or carry that weight! The main house is a villa built in 1729, complete with English landscapes and Italian architecture. Re-watch the videos, and you will see the greenhouse and the statues! Look at the picture sleeve on the EP import and you'll see the iconic tree.



Twickenham Studios was an early highlight as we were miraculously able to see INSIDE the famed studio whilst the carpenters were busy building film stages! Charles!!! said this was a rarity as the studio is usually 'closed up' and groups hardly ever see inside! We were fortunate, but it wasn't the only time luck was on our side.

We took advantage of our time prior to a 3pm hotel check-in at the hotel in London, by continuing on for a traditional panoramic sightseeing tour of the main must-see landmarks! After Chiswick, we had an early view of Buckingham Palace, Piccadilly, a number of rock and roll related locales (such as Mick Jagger's flat, which is currently for sale), before we explored some of the coolest film locations from *A Hard Day's Night* and *Help!*



En route, we visited so many businesses, apartments, and other locations related to The Beatles, often in more ways than one!

We checked into a London Hilton hotel, and many of us went for dinner at London's famed – and original - Hard Rock Café. It was great meeting our fellow tour-members on a more personal level, and of course, checking out the memorabilia and R&R history at the Hard Rock!

Our full Beatles sightseeing tour of London was the next day, and if any of us were tired, we you couldn't tell because we were so filled with excitement! We met Charles!!! and our tour-guide Colin in the main lobby of the Hilton London for what proved to be a magical day with some mystery, as we were never sure exactly what we may see or where we could end up next, but it was all-Beatley and related! We headed on to the 'tube' and trained it to Abbey Road, MPL, 3 Savile Row, Cavendish Street, Beatle apartments, Wimpole Street, the site of Apple headquarters, and much too much to mention. There was just so much! We were able to see the site of the Indica Gallery where John and Yoko met, and the Bag o' Nails where Paul and Linda met. Additionally, there were numerous little hidden hideaways that our tour guide Colin pointed out, such as bars where the boys would hang, or the Stones would be up to no good! The Abbey Road crossing is a mecca for Beatle people and we spent a lot of time taking photos and soaking it all in! There is a feeling that is so magical and distinctive that it is hard to truly describe! There is an Abbey Road gift shop now open, and you can still write messages on the walls outside. More than amazing!





We didn't want to leave Abbey Road, but there were other places to visit, and more activities to enjoy. By the way, when we visited Paul's home on Cavendish Avenue, the gates were open which is a rarity!





After a full day of non-stop Fab Four Fun, we once again met in the hotel lobby the next day for our trek to Liverpool! The bus was really humming with excitement!

We then headed to Liverpool with a stop in Henley-on-Thames. Would you believe we were on a PURPLE coach with a driver named PRINCE?! In Henley we had time to explore the village, which included the marketplace filled with coffee, baguettes, avocado toast, pastries, and other tasty treats. There were places for us to buy records, book shops, saris made into hair clips and scrunchies, and we even held Zak Starkey's Grammy Award that a shop owner had in his possession.

Oh yes, we stopped at Friar Park for a respectable stop at the main gates. We snapped many photos of 'Crackerbox Palace,' and we were able to get a glimpse into the mega mansion where George lived and wrote many classic songs throughout the years! Henley is a beautiful town, which is probably why George loved living there!



The weather was perfect and we all boarded our coach to continue our trek to Beatleland! We were heading to Liverpool for what we knew was going to be an incredible experience for everyone!

We finally arrived! We checked into our hotel, and we had some time to rest up! But first, we would get our Beatleweek information which included a gold wristband to wear for the week. It got us into every venue and the convention! We had premiere tickets for concerts at the Philharmonic each night! The first concert at "The Phil" included a 'John and Paul Beyond The Beatles' event with Adam (The Fab Four) Hastings as John. He was absolutely mesmerizing!



Tony Coburn did a set as Paul and he was quite good! They brought up Geoff Britton, who played with Wings! Geoff had just arrived from Spain just a few hours earlier to be there to play at the show!

Later that night, 'The Beatles Variety Show' was an historic live event, with a set by the original (and still living) Quarry Men. Author/tour guide/expert/friend David Bedford plays bass, and they invited up our own James Paul to play onstage with them!



The headliners were a group from Sweden named Pepperland. They play Beatleweek often, and many people on our tour who were repeat travelers knew them from past years. They were excellent with a set that was theatrical and funny! To me they were sort of like The Wiggles meet The Beatles!



Outside Philharmonic Hall Photo Courtesy Dr. Lynnda Nadien

British actor/musician Mark ('John & Yoko A Love Story') McGann at the Everyman Theatre was another highlight. His thoughtful and dramatic tribute to John was highly emotional and beautiful, yet insightful and informative. You could feel the love, although the horror of John's death even so many years later is something you cannot overcome! Mark always pays homage in a pure and heartfelt performance!



The 'P.S. I Love You' festival was another super event. It was an outdoor music festival with live music, food trucks, and a cool double-decker bus ride to and from the grounds of Port Sunlight, home of Hulme Hall, where Ringo played live as a Beatles for the first time! The fish and chips here were outstanding, the ice cream was delicious, and the music was top notch. The Mexican Beatles fan club brought along the band 'Morsa' ('Walrus' in Spanish). It was a warm day and we met great people and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves!

As with every evening, we always had a show to go to, and time before that to choose places to dine. Bella Italiano was a favorite, but we couldn't resist more portions of fish and chips!

The following day we visited The Beatles' childhood homes! A National Trust van shuttled us directly to the locations: John's childhood home, Mendips, on Menlove Avenue and Paul's childhood home is on Forthlin Road. Our tour guides were so knowledgeable and seemed to care as much as we did as visitors.

Every single day was amazing, but this was just a dream come true! To some this was possibly the most exciting day!



Forthlin Road Photo by Trisha Boos



Mendips Photo Courtesy Trisha Boos

Menlove was first and our host Polly said that Yoko bought the house and then donated it to the National Trust in 2003. When Aunt Mimi died in 1991, the family returned her belongings to the house so that all the original houseware items could be displayed in the way the house originally looked when John was a child/teenager. John's report cards were on display on Aunt Mimi's desk and

comments included 'ambitions unrealistic' and 'poor' mathematics! The best was 'he needs to try harder'! Don't we all?

Once we headed over to Paul's house, you realized why Paul had to ride his bike or take the bus to John's home because it was kinda far. Aunt Mimi would say to John 'your little friend is here'! Paul's house on Forthlin Road was less 'posh,' although the flowers were still in bloom, just the way Paul's Dad, Jim McCartney, loved them. The drainpipe that Paul climbed was intact and the piano was there. It's not the original piano, because apparently Paul has that in his collection. My son, James Paul (yes, that's his name!) was able to play the piano whilst many of us were upstairs in Paul's bedroom. Suddenly, the music sort of drifted upstairs, and we all came down the stairs to see what was happening! If Jim and Mary's gentle spirits are still in that house, they would've been beaming with pride when JP played 'When I'm Sixty-Four'. The bathroom upstairs (or lavatory, as it is called in England), was being refurbished because - as legend would have it - two famous teenagers liked to doodle all over the walls, and when I say doodle, I mean drew pictures and wrote messages on the walls! Some daft person must have painted over the doodling. Now that young teenager who is now 83 told the National Trust, "Hey, can you preserve any of that wall? John and I used to doodle all over it!" So yes, there is some mechanism that can peel paint and somehow possibly reveal those doodles! Stand by for the future of that lavatory!

If the Beatles homes weren't enough, it was now over to the Adelphi Hotel for the mega Beatleweek Beatles Convention! Some of the Beatle people wandering around were Billy J. Kramer, Julia Baird, Mark Lewison, David Bedford, and members of many of the bands. There were many exhibits, and memorabilia for sale, which included vinyl records, books, toys, Beatle china, shirts, hats, tea towels, some autographs and signed memorabilia. You name it. Prices were reasonable for most items. Remember, this is an international convention so you never know who you may meet or what you may find in a bin! Our leader, Charles!!!, had a vendor's table at the convention, where he was selling & signing copies of his 'Book of Top 10 Beatles Lists,' which he sold out of. The convention continued until late in the evening, but many of us headed to dinner or to explore other areas around the hotel and within Central Liverpool.

On Monday, our city-wide comprehensive Magical Mystery Tour began when we boarded our coach after breakfast. This was another big day! First, we headed to the Docks for our Ferry Cross the Mersey! The weather was ideal, and this stop was really special. Before we all got on the Ferry, we took a group pic with the statues. We sang the Gerry (Marsden) and The Pacemakers classic. The pier is quite modernized yet full of history!







After ferrying across the Mersey, and recording much of our adventure on our phones for posterity, the tour bus met us on the other side of Liverpool and we headed to Wirral and 'everywhere'! Charles!!! constantly looked after us, and kept us entertained. As we know from his www.BookOfTop10BeatlesLists.com book, Charles!!! loves lists (but there were so many locations we visited, it was hard to keep track), so here are some of the many visits we were able to experience: Beatles Statues, Ferry, Liverpool University, Oxford Maternity Hospital, John's birth hospital (now college dorms!), St. Peter's Church in Woolton, the site where John met Paul at the Woolton Fete, the Eleanor Rigby grave in the cemetery, as well as John's Uncle George burial site (he died in 1951), and more. St. Peter's was well preserved and is really a major historical site.

We stopped for lunch in Penny Lane, walked to 9 Newcastle Road, and visited the Strawberry Fields orphanage-turned-sightseeing must. It has been incredibly and beautifully renovated. The original Salvation Army site now contains a 'museum' along the original gates, an Imagine mosaic, a prayer sanctuary, prayer spaces, meditation spaces, cafeteria, and a gift shop. You could spend hours or maybe even a full day there! The grounds are amazing and when you peek through the trees you can see Mendips, John's childhood home only a few yards away! We were welcomed by John's sister Julia Baird, who met the group, signed autographs, and posed for photos.





Our group inside the Strawberry Field bandshell Photo by Dr. Lynnda Nadien

By request of a few of our tour-members, we took a side-trip to Allerton Cemetery, which has to be one of the most beautiful cemeteries! John's mother Julia is buried there, and we think that some of John's ashes may have been spread there by Yoko and Sean in 1984 when they visited Liverpool. The spirit vibe there was real. There was an unmistakable element of peace and tranquility.



We were far from finished. We continued our journey to Arnold Grove, Madryn Street, Brian Epstein's house, Dovedale Primary School, and so much more. Wow! This was so much to process - but it was a spectacular day!

But it was the headliners, The Bootleg Beatles, who were absolutely perfect. With numerous costume changes, even a unique Yellow Sub set and look, they played song after song to rousing applause and approval. They even implemented an orchestra which made the show even more musical, exciting, and special.



Tuesday would be our last day in Liverpool and it was an 'I Me Mine'

type of day, which we actually needed after the non-stop mania! Basically, you could do what you want - when you want - during the day as you gear up for an incredible finale night at the Cavern Club! So after a full breakfast (all breakfasts inside our hotel are always included), some of us headed to Albert Dock to explore the area and visit The Beatles Story exhibition. We know "the story" and can probably tell the story all day and night, but we still had to go through and experience the play-by-play! It is definitely worth the price of admission! Some of our group went to a town called Chester via the tube! Others checked out various shops in and around Mathew Street! The shopping is great and includes two Beatles Shops and some related souvenir shops! We headed to the Liverpool Beatles Museum curated with love and careful attention by Pete Best and Roag Best and the Best family. It was absolutely amazing, with an array of rare Beatle memorabilia, photographs, exhibits, a gift shop and tons of Pete Best's personal 'best' stuff! You could see drumheads, Sgt. Pepper outfits, leather pants, and clothing worn by some skinny young, savage Beatles! Charles!!! said he thought this museum was the 'best' and he was correct! I should mention that the day before, our tour included the Best's Casbah Club, where Charles!!! took a picture with Pete's younger brother, Roag, and our Australian friend, broadcaster Plastic EP.



As the day turned into night, we were all gearing up for our evening party at the famed Cavern Club! One thing I must mention is that it did not rain a single time during our ten-day trip! It is possible that it rained during the night when we were fast asleep, but during the day the sun was bright and warm! I heard from a

passenger on our flight back that there was actually a drought with barely any rain from April to August. When the rain comes... you know what happens! An interesting tidbit possibly related to the fact that climate change could be real?

Finally, the night rolled up and there we were at the Cavern! We had a VIP concert in the larger, back area which you could only enter with tickets! The theme was Elvis vs. The Beatles. The two Elvis impersonators, one younger and one slightly older, were excellent, and of course the young Beatle band rocked the house!



The bar is great at the Cavern and so is the merch! We bought t-shirts, hoodies, hats, mugs, and so much more! It was a great night of music in one of the most famous venues in the world! An incredible way to end our last night in Liverpool!

The next day we all had breakfast and met in the lobby for one last roll-call by Charles!!! before we were to board our coach to the airport and home!

The past 10 days were truly inspirational, magical, amazing, exuberant, emotional, exhausting, and worth every ounce of our beings! When I say exhausting, I really mean emotionally satisfying! We get high with little help from our friends! There are just some places in the world in which you 'belong' and we 'belong' here because of our love for the lads! To quote Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz and not a Beatle... "there is no place like home," but to quote The Beatles..... "there's a place where I can go.....and it is liverpool!

Thank you to Charles!!! for making this trip more than fab! Much love to our fellow travelers! To say you meet friends for life is an understatement! The camaraderie was sincere, and our love for The Beatles was and is unwavering! When you put all of the above together, you create magical mystery memories!

So, this is my tour report, both humble and true.

Peace and Love, Dr. Lynnda Nadien,
MMTour 2025

Thoughts, Impressions, and Conclusions by Carl Caplan

I literally do not know where to start, so I will just freeform my thoughts and try to put them into some coherent format.

Charles - Here I am 1½ weeks after the end of the trip of my lifetime and I am still on a Beatles high. I will never be able to thank you enough for providing me with this opportunity. I was pleased to be able to fortify my relationship with you so that I feel closer to you now than I have in our almost 50-year time span. Your "shout out" about me in your trip summary on the way to the Manchester airport was one of the best moments of the trip for me, but hardly the only good moment. As I said to you at Friar Park, I never expected to be in these places in my life.

My wife, Jill, and I felt as though we made 30 new best friends. They were "the best of the best" and I have communicated with each of them individually by email. Thanks for sharing the email addresses.

I came to a conclusion during the trip that Beatles fans can be divided into two types – those who are fans of the Beatles music and those who are fans of the Beatles story. I am fortunate to have one leg on either side of the dividing line. This trip has brought back to me so many memories going back years of things that I experienced as a

dedicated Beatles collector. I feel like an academic, revisiting all of the things that I have read about for years and now experiencing them first hand. I can remember going to my first Beatlefest at the Commodore Hotel in NYC (I think I have that correct) and seeing a nutcase running around the dealers' room with a T-shirt that read "There is no comparison to George Harrison."

I treated myself to some movie watching time today with "A Hard Day's Night." One thing leads to another. I found that there is a colorized (A.I.) version of A Hard Day's Night available for viewing on YouTube. It is not perfect but is certainly a treat to see The Beatles as one would have seen them in person in 1964.

One of the impressions I got in Liverpool was that it really seemed as though there was a barbershop on every block. I wondered if The Beatles and their long hair was just an opportunity for them to rebel against the older generation much like each generation since then has done.

Here are my recreated thoughts of the trip day by day.

August 18 – First travel day:

How will we ever find anyone at JFK Airport? Okay, we got past that. How will we know who on this flight is part of our group? Okay, we got past that. How will we get to know all of these strangers? Again, no problem. Thank you, Kerry, for breaking the ice.

August 19 -

Where am I? Who am I? I am already overwhelmed with Beatles landmarks. I find out very quickly that I can either pay attention to Colin and look at what he is talking about or concentrate on taking pictures, but I can't do both. I choose to listen to Colin, so my picture-taking will be very much in the background or non-existent.

As we approached one of our landmarks, I began to get excited. Before Colin even said where we were, I had a feeling that I knew what was coming and I was thrilled with what was in front of me. I was able to take pictures of the "Help!" houses which were a real highlight for me.

We decided to skip dinner tonight as we were beat. We used the evening to get comfortable with our hotel room and get to bed.

August 20 -

Today was more walking than I have done in my senior years. Some of the sites we visited today were places that we saw when we did our Beatles walking tour 15 years ago. I recognized 3 Savile Row, the "Not Only But Also" lavatory location, and the MPL office. I finally had enough by mid-afternoon and elected to return to the hotel.

Jill shared a great story with me. She told me about standing across the street from Paul's Cavendish home when, in her words, her heart stopped as the gate opened. What a surprise as his housekeeper appeared!

August 21 -

Things really start to click for me today as we head to “the promised land” of Liverpool. Little did I realize how I would feel when we arrived at Friar Park. Jill and I found a lovely place for lunch (just before the Angel) where we could sit outside by the river. After lunch, Jill walked into Henley and texted me “I am never leaving here.”

August 22 -

We are starting to learn many things about Liverpool. The first thing was a lesson in how to cross the street. The second was that Liverpool may be the only place in the world where everything seems to be uphill from wherever you are. You walk uphill to get there and uphill to get back, defying the natural order of things.

Our first Beatleweek event is the Mark McGann show at the Everyman Theatre. What a great venue and what a great show! Little did we know that it was only the beginning and that we were in for. Treat after treat. This was followed by a great concert experience, our first show at the Philharmonic Hall. We met some people at the evening show sitting next to us that were experienced Bealtweek participants (I think Candy Wright and a friend of hers) who we would see again and again.

By this time, we were really getting the hang of this trip and were feeling very comfortable with our traveling companions. Having breakfast with our friends every morning was really something to look forward to.

August 23 -

Today was a lighter day with some time spent at Port Sunlight. We used the afternoon to visit the Beatles statue at the Pier Head on our own. In the evening, it was another great time at Philharmonic Hall. We are slowly making our way onto Uber’s top 10 best customers list because we were going to some of these places on our own.

August 24 -

Another special day with the National Trust tour. While waiting for the van to pick us up, we had an opportunity to spend some quality time with a local neighborhood resident named Pete Howard. Pete was as old as the Beatles and a lifelong resident of the neighborhood, and he regaled us with tales from the old days as only a Liverpooldian can do. He made the waiting time seem like a matter of seconds.

The visits to the boyhood homes of Paul and John were today’s highlight. The guides in each of the homes were excellent and the experiences were unmatched. I was fascinated as we drove through the neighborhoods that these homes are just homes in a neighborhood where people live every day, riding their bicycles and pushing babies in strollers, etc. Don’t they realize that they live in Mecca?

When we returned, we had a chance to visit the convention. It has been many years since I last attended a Beatles convention of any kind, and I was surprised by what I saw or did not see in the Dealers’ Room. In the old days, I always enjoyed conventions as a way to stock up on the latest books. Back then, I was always proud of the many titles in my personal library. I know that, since I stopped collecting, there have been as many titles published as there had been before. However, it seemed that (aside from Charles!!! and one other seller) nobody had books for sale. I expected to have a walk

down Memory Lane seeing all of the items that I used to own, but mostly there were tables and tables of people selling records and CDs. Maybe I wasn't paying enough attention, but I was surprised.

August 25 -

What a great bus tour we had today! Jill enjoyed her time at Strawberry Field today, especially in the gift shop. We just became first-time grandparents and were able to pick up some Strawberry Field bibs for our new granddaughter. Penny Lane, St. Peter's Church, the Casbah, Ferry across the Mersey, all great sites. Another great concert at Philharmonic Hall. Will it ever stop? Not complaining!

August 26 -

We loved our visit to the Beatles Museum on Mathew Street. After that, we enriched the local economy with our visits to the various souvenir shops. The afternoon was our personal "intimate" tour of the Casbah conducted by the gracious Roag Best Jr. I have officially run out of adjectives to describe anything else we see.

We capped the day and the trip with our final musical event, a concert at the Cavern. I know that these memories will stay with me for the rest of my life.

August 27 -

A great coach ride to the Manchester Airport included a great summary of the trip by our great host Charles!!! Reality smacked us in the face all too soon as we fought our way to our pickup point at JFK for the car ride back home.

Final thoughts -

As an accountant and dedicated Beatles academic, it occurred to me that doing Liverpool first and then London would have maintained the chronology of the story. I have corrected a mistake in my music collection. After selling off all of my vinyl collection, I decided to buy only the music that was important to me, so I now have CDs of The Beatles, McCartney, and Harrison. I had no Lennon music until I did this trip and realized that I made a mistake. As a result, I should be receiving in tomorrow's mail a 4-disc set of most of Lennon's work.

Doing things that please my wife has always been important to me. I certainly make enough mistakes, and doing all that I can to balance that out is at the top of my list. Jill told me that she agreed to do this trip as "taking one for the team" because she knew how important it was for me. We were both thrilled that she enjoyed the trip more than she expected to. She came home with several new T-shirts and a John Lennon coffee mug.

Charles!!!, I have tried my best to put in writing how I feel about all aspects of this trip, but words on a piece of paper will never do justice to the feelings I have inside. I am not good at faking it, so what you see with me is the real deal. You certainly saw the look on my face and the tears of joy in my eyes. Thanks for being the catalyst that made this dream come true.