

SLU 301 CONFERENCE PACKET

SLU 301 2026 Schedule Overview

NOTE: All schedules are subject to change should SLU deem it necessary to do so. Final schedule will be sent as part of the final briefing emailed June 2026. Remember, blessed are the flexible.

Sunday, July 19th: DEPARTURE DAY

- Make sure and try to get some rest before you board the plane (which we know is hard sometimes as you are busy packing and preparing to leave town- but you will be glad you did). You are going to be on an overnight flight to Europe (typically 7+ hours) and want to make sure you are ready to roll when you arrive the next morning!
- Dress for the day is casual, comfortable clothes. Just remember it gets cold on the plane.
- If you can, you should change money over to GBP before taking off for your international flight if you have not done so already.

Monday, July 20th: WELCOME TO SLU 301 & WINDSOR

- **Heathrow Airport Arrival:** Upon arrival into London (most groups will arrive in Terminal 3), go through customs, and claim your luggage.
 - **If your luggage is lost:** Pass this message on to another SLU attendee so that SLU staff at Heathrow can be informed. Proceed to the lost luggage area and fill out forms with the London hotel information (Heathrow Renaissance Hotel – Bath Road, Hounslow, England TW6 2AQ). Make sure you do not leave until you have a contact name and number to continue to track your luggage. It normally helps to have someone in the states to continue to help track this until you have confirmation that your luggage has arrived in London.
- **Once You Have Your Luggage (or your lost luggage claim information):**
 - Meet SLU staff at the Arrivals Hall of Heathrow Airport where they will all be wearing the special **SLU Staff T-Shirt**. Make sure to have your SLU nametag on so we can identify you.
- **For Attendees who booked their own flights or arrived early:** a separate email will be sent to you with instructions on where to meet the SLU Group. For the most part, if you arrive in London early, you will meet the SLU group at the hotel, and if you are flying into London the morning of July 20th, we will customize your instructions based on what time/ terminal you fly in.
- After arrival, we will board our coaches for breakfast and SLU 301 Welcome Session at the hotel. We will not be checking into the hotel until the evening, so plan to come off the plane or change at the airport in your outfit for touring Windsor. You will drop your large suitcase at the hotel to be stored until the evening and receive your syllabus here from your SLU staff member.
- Then we will be off to explore the **city of Windsor** where history is full of lessons you can apply to your lives today! You will get to tour **Windsor Castle**, the oldest and largest occupied castle in the world! You will also have time to get lunch on your own while we explore the city.
- In the evening, we will then depart for the hotel to check in for one night, have a private dinner and SLU 301 session.

Tuesday, July 21st: WINCHESTER & FERRY

- HERE WE GO! We will spend the morning venturing to **Winchester Cathedral** before boarding our FERRY for a trip across the **English Channel** – amazing! Dinner will be on board. This is a 5 ½ hour ride and is a favorite of past attendees as you can catch up with SLU friends.
- We then arrive by 10 PM in Caen, France and board the SLU coaches to go to different hotels in Normandy for the evening (we are only staying at these hotels one night).
- Dress for the day is casual, comfortable clothes.

Wednesday, July 22nd: NORMANDY

- **Get Ready to Storm the Beaches!** Today is an all-time favorite for our SLU alumni! **American Normandy Cemetery** and SLU wreath laying ceremony, **Pointe du Hoc**, and a picnic lunch on **Omaha Beach**.
- **Special dress guidelines for Normandy:** Normandy is hot but windy. A sweatshirt or light jacket is a must. Collared shirts (for men), blouses or nice tops (for women) and jeans/pants/capris should be worn this day. We dress this way at Normandy out of respect for our visit to the American Normandy Cemetery. **We just ask that no T-shirts or shorts are worn on this day.**
- After our time in Normandy, we will spend the afternoon driving to Paris arriving in time for dinner.

Thursday, July 23rd: PARIS

- We have an early start for breakfast before another SLU private session and then we depart for a full day of Paris touring. The coaches are split into groups for touring at the newly opened **Notre Dame**, **Rodin's Sculpture Gardens**, a picture stop at the **Eiffel Tower**, the **Invalides**, the **Arc de Triomphe**, and more!
- Dress recommendation for Paris is to think in layers using breathable fabrics. Paris is usually hot, hot, hot.

Friday, July 24th: PARIS to LONDON

- Get ready to rise and thrive! It's an early start as we travel back to London. It is "All Aboard" for the Eurostar, the high-speed rail that takes you under the English Channel in style, all the way to London! We arrive at St. Pancras Station-London and are whisked away by private coach to begin three days of touring in London and Oxford!
- Upon arrival back in London, we have some SLU all-time favorite moments! As time allows we will explore **St. Paul's Cathedral**, the **British Library**, and the **Cabinet War Rooms and Churchill Museum** and then we will continue by our private coaches for a visit to **Bunhill Fields** and a Private Session at **Wesley Chapel**.
- We will then return to our London hotel for our final hotel check-in of the trip.

Saturday, July 25th: OXFORD & SLU GRADUATION DAY

- We are off to **Oxford** for the day! First, we will enjoy a private SLU session in Holy **Trinity Church** where **C. S. Lewis** worshipped. Then you will have some free time and lunch on your own in Oxford to choose your own adventure! You can walk along the path where C. S. Lewis and Tolkien spoke of the



Scriptures and held each other accountable for their dreams and goals. Or you can choose to walk the halls where John Wesley studied, prayed, and prepared for ministry. Or visit Christ Church to see the Harry Potter dining hall or pick one of the other grand adventures Oxford has to offer. Or you can simply wander the streets of Oxford shopping and exploring.

- Then it is time to get back together in the evening for SLU Graduation! This is a special time when all SLU participants are challenged regarding what is next in their leadership journey. On this evening, Dr. Jay Strack and Brent Crowe will pray over every group of SLU graduates.
- Guidelines for Oxford and Graduation Day are as follows:
 - **Oxford** during the day is the same as Normandy. Just no shorts or T-Shirts
 - **Graduation Dinner at the Hotel** (you will have time to change after your time at Oxford): guys should be in pants and long-sleeved, button-down shirts (coats and tie are optional- not required). Ladies -think professional, business/ church attire (not prom). No jeans.

Sunday, July 26th: LONDON

- For our last day, there is so much to see: **Tower of London**, Parliament Square, **Victoria and Albert Museum**, Tower Bridge, Piccadilly Circus, **pictures at Buckingham Palace**, and more...
- We will end the evening with a private dinner at our hotel and our SLU 301 closing session.

Monday, July 27th: TIME TO HEAD HOME

- For those who booked flights through SLU, you will be given your assigned time to board coaches for the airport. We leave for the airport 3 1/2 hours before departure (this may be adjusted if border restrictions are adjusted).
- For those who booked flights on their own, we are happy to accommodate you on a SLU shuttle to the airport if you provided your travel information to SLU. Please note that all of the SLU shuttles will depart between 5:30 AM and 7:15 AM for the airport so if your flight is in the afternoon, it is best for you to make your own arrangements, which is very easy with the hotel we are at. They have an airport shuttle called the Hoppa or you can Uber for under 10 GBP typically.
- When you arrive at the Heathrow airport, get a boarding pass with a seat number (if they tell you it will be assigned at the gate, tell them you are a minor traveling with a group and must have it at check-in), go through security, and proceed immediately to the boarding area. Keep a close watch on the monitor as the British airports sometimes do not post the departure gate until a few minutes before boarding and it can take as long as 20 minutes to walk to the gates.
- Once you arrive in your domestic connecting city, go through customs, claim your luggage, and walk out to the area to recheck your luggage for the final flight home. Again, go immediately to the train and then proceed to your flight boarding area. Allow a minimum of 2 hours for this process.

SLU Hotels

NORMANDY: Coaching groups will be in different boutique hotels while in Normandy. Specific hotels will be sent prior to the trip.

PARIS: **Marriott Paris Rive Gauche Hôtel**, 17 Boulevard Saint Jacques, 75014, Paris France

LONDON: **Heathrow Renaissance Hotel**, Bath Road, Hounslow, England TW6 2AQ, United Kingdom

SLU 301 Packing Suggestions Check List

Since this conference packet is full of suggestions on what you need at SLU 301, here is a summary list so you have everything in one place. Make sure you read the entire conference packet, so you don't miss any details.

THE ESSENTIALS:

- ☐ Your sense of adventure and flexible attitude
- ☐ Suitcase (bring a larger one if you plan on getting a lot of souvenirs)
- ☐ Carry-on for Normandy and Paris Days
- ☐ Small backpack or purse to carry things while touring
- ☐ SLU Nametag, luggage tag, and syllabus
- ☐ Passport and Xerox copy of your passport
- ☐ Printed copy of your UK ETA confirmation linked to passport you are traveling with
- ☐ Clothes that follow dress guidelines (see special guidelines for Normandy)
- ☐ Graduation outfit
- ☐ Good shoes you can do a lot of walking in (make sure you break these shoes in before the trip)
- ☐ \$80 tip money in US currency to give to SLU staff upon arrival for drivers and guides
- ☐ Money for 3 meals on your own
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Pen/ highlighters
- ☐ Sunscreen and sunglasses
- ☐ Umbrella/ Poncho/ or rain jacket
- ☐ Convertors for France and England (they are different)
- ☐ Toiletries
- ☐ All Medicines (including copies of prescriptions) plus it is also a good idea to pack a small medical kit with items like band-aids, sleep aids for the plane, and medicine for headaches or nausea (Imodium).

SUGGESTIONS TO SET YOU UP FOR SUCCESS:

- ☐ Phone/ camera to take pictures with
- ☐ Extra charger/ battery pack for phone to use during the day
- ☐ Travel alarm clock/ watch
- ☐ Journal
- ☐ Spending Money
- ☐ Lots of snacks
- ☐ Rolls of travel toilet paper/ tissues/ hand sanitizer
- ☐ Good book or games for the coach rides and Ferry Rides (especially traveling to and from France)
- ☐ Bring your own ear buds to use with the guides instead of having to use the provided headphones (needs to be the old plug-ins - not new iPhone plugs)
- ☐ Plastic bags for dirty clothes