

POLITICALTOURS

Travel beyond the headlines

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Brexit – Britain and The EU

Dates: 5 nights

June 2018, Sunday 24th to Friday 29th

London, Brussels

Led by David Torrance

Britain's possible exit from the European Union could have a profound impact in the UK and abroad. This tour examines the options open to the British government, its relationship with the EU and the possible fallout from a no vote.

We start in Westminster meeting with key speakers in UK politics and industry and then head to Belgium and look at the UK's attempts to renegotiate its position in Europe. We get the views of key players in the European Commission, Council and Parliament. What would the EU look like without the UK? How will it affect UK trade as well as the balance of power between the major EU states?

Our expert is a former senior British civil servant and veteran of major negotiations between the UK and the EU under both Conservative and Labour governments. Our speakers include Tony Blair's former speechwriter and a senior former Conservative minister. In Brussels we have over a dozen meetings with some of the most influential voices in EU affairs. Contact us for full details of our speakers.

For anyone seeking to understand what could be one of the most important votes in recent British history, this tour is a must.

Price: £3300.00

Single Supplement: £300.00

Cost includes return London to Brussels on the Eurostar.

Like all our tours the itinerary is focused on current affairs. Events on the ground may change and the final schedule may be adjusted accordingly.

Itinerary

Day One: London

Dinner at 7p.m. with David Torrance and Political Tours. We outline the latest on the Brexit negotiations and a look at the week ahead. *Overnight London*

Day Two: London – Deal or No Deal

By now the ideological split of the Brexiteers and Remainers is clear – what is less clear is the impact Britain's departure from the EU will have on the economy. We explore the parameters of a future deal with the EU and the possibility of no deal at all. While there has been some focus on finance, there has been little public debate about the impact on manufacturing, tariffs and trade. The first full day of the tour looks at key sectors – from finance, to manufacturing, agriculture and trade. We visit one of the UK's busiest docks to hear about their preparations for life outside the EU. *Overnight London*

Day Three: Westminster and Eurostar to Brussels

With some of the implications for trade and commerce under our belts – former civil servants brief us on the current negotiations. The key stumbling block for British Eurosceptics remains the European Court of Justice. What ways are there around this? We ask what lessons are there from other trading relationships with the EU. There are also broader constitutional questions to think of; what are the implications for Northern Ireland and Scotland. They will be required to approve of matters as part of their governing remit or devolved powers. Will they? In the evening we leave Westminster for Brussels for the second half of tour. *Overnight Brussels*

Day Four: Brussels

Three separate bodies make up the governing institutions of the EU; the Council of EU, which represents the governments, the Commission, and the Parliament. Over the next two and half days we visit all three. Our first stop is to meet separate delegations within the council; how do key nations such as the Poles, Germans, and French view Britain's negotiating position? 27 states will have to vote on any future deal with the UK. After lunch we visit the European Parliament whose powers have increased significantly over the past decade. Different political

blocks give their view on a European Union without the UK, including nationalist groups that want a weaker union. Time off for dinner in Brussels. *Overnight Brussels*

Day Five: Brussels

We look at the parameters of the deal taking shape. What will the UK's liabilities be beyond 2019, and how is the possible interim deal to keep Britain in the EU single market taking shape? The UK has said it is ready to fall back on WTO rules if no deal is found. Experienced EU trade negotiators describe the difficulties the UK faces ahead. Members of the press corps share their insights into the negotiation process thus far. And we ask where the EU as a whole is heading in a period of political populism and protectionism. *Overnight Brussels*

Day Six: Brussels to London

Next we look at the foreign policy implications of the UK no vote. What are the global implications of Britain outside the EU? Relations with Spain on Gibraltar, Scotland within the UK, and the UK/US relationship could be affected. Britain's global standing has already been damaged. What is its future on the international stage? A US diplomat gives his view. We review the tour before travelling back to London midday on the Eurostar *where our tour ends.*