



Winter Freeze –
2025 pricing
for 2026

Winter Explorer

St Albans

4 JANUARY – 14 FEBRUARY 2026

1 – 6 WEEKS



Winter Explorer

Overview

Our Winter Explorer course gives students the opportunity to discover British culture while developing their English language skills, through project-based learning activities and interactive learning - both inside and outside the classroom.

On this course, students will:

- Develop their English in all four areas: reading, writing, listening and speaking
- Practise new vocabulary, pronunciation and improve their grammar structures, as appropriate to their level
- Become confident, independent learners with essential 21st century life skills like: communication, critical thinking, collaboration, creativity and cultural awareness
- Make friends with students from a diverse mix of countries across the globe

Who is this for?

Young learners who want to combine English language study with activities and educational day trips and excursions.

Study Tours

Students take part in three full-day study tours every two weeks to UK destinations. They will also have the opportunity to add optional activities to enhance their experience, available on certain weeks only (see page 6 for more details)

- **Edinburgh 25 - 27 January** – experience Scottish culture at this famous historic capital, including a tour of Edinburgh castle, ghost walks and Scottish dancing
- **London** – see the Tower of London, Downing Street, Covent Garden, Science Museum or the Houses of Parliament
- **Cambridge** – tour the city's famous landmarks and university colleges, including the world famous King's College
- **Windsor** – explore the world's largest and oldest occupied castle, which is also one of the official residences of King Charles III
- **Oxford** – Enjoy a tour of this famous university city, and visit the world's oldest university museum.
- **Stratford-upon-Avon** – See Shakespeare's birthplace, a town with centuries of history

Our approach

English lessons

English lessons include projects that are designed around the school's weekly theme. Small groups of students work together on their projects based on the language knowledge and skills development needs.

Activity programme

Students at Bell 'learn by doing', so the activity programme is an integral part of the course and allows young learners to practise and develop what they have learnt in lessons. Our afternoon activities – electives – are designed to improve communication and confidence while developing academic, creative and active skills.

All Winter Explorer students will also enjoy a wide variety of whole-school activities, such as games, competitions, discos and shows.

Minimum staff to student ratio

1:6



Course summary

Age	11-17
Min. language level	All levels
Course length	1 - 6 weeks
Location	St Albans
Start dates	Sunday 4 January Sunday 11 January Sunday 18 January Sunday 1 February Sunday 8 February

Course components 1 week

- Lessons
15 hours
- Study tours
1 - 2 days
- Electives / Academy
9 hours
- Other activities
9 hours



Electives

Students choose 2 activities per week. Electives include:

- Art and crafts
- Handball
- Board games
- Journalism
- British literature
- Orienteering
- Cricket
- Rounders
- Dance
- Dodgeball
- Drama
- Film & photography
- Volleyball
- Football
- Health and fitness

Project-based learning

Explore the themes and topics

Project themes have been intentionally designed for students and teachers to take their project in a direction that best meets the group's needs and motivations.

This means that every group of students will learn something different with each student receiving a personalised learning experience. This unique aspect of our Explorer courses ensures they are consistently motivating and engaging, and students often return year after year.

Develop language skills

The content of lessons, study tours and activities are designed with a focus on the project theme, giving the students a holistic experience which accelerates their learning.

Create a personal response

Each project has a theme which begins with a central guiding question to start the students on their learning journey. This guiding question focuses the project and the students work collaboratively towards the production of a tangible project outcome which often combines each of the different aspects of the course.

Practise everywhere

Project-based learning on an Explorer programme is a fully-integrated approach to language learning that provides our students with lots of cross-curricular opportunities for learning everywhere, both inside and outside the classroom.

This means that every group of students will learn something different with each student receiving a personalised learning experience. This unique aspect of our Explorer courses ensures they are consistently motivating and engaging, and students often return year after year.

Present at the end-of-course show

The end of the Explorer project gives students the chance to share their learning experiences with each other in the form of a course show (presentation).

Course includes:



Tuition, study materials and course portfolio



Residential accommodation and all meals



A full programme of educational and social activities



A full programme of study tours



Comprehensive insurance



Comprehensive supervision by qualified staff



Transfers to and from designated airports/stations on scheduled arrival and departure days *



Free internet access



Free laundry service

* For arrival and departures between 10am and 5pm or advised train times



WEEK 1:

London Calling

SUNDAY 4 JANUARY – SATURDAY 10 JANUARY

This project marks the beginning of our winter programme, introducing students to Britain and British culture, with a special focus on London and the London Eye as their study tour destination. Through engaging activities and discussions, students will explore the city's rich history, iconic landmarks, and diverse way of life. They will reflect on how London has evolved over time, comparing its past and present, and drawing connections to their own hometowns. By immersing themselves in the sights and sounds of the capital, students will develop a deeper appreciation of British culture while building key language and critical thinking skills.

Example learning outcomes

- Students will learn key vocabulary such as adjectives for describing traits and qualities of different people and places.
- Students will learn comparative and superlative forms for comparing and contrasting lifestyle in London to their home countries.
- Students will develop their cross-cultural understanding and communication skills.

Types of activities could include:

- Take part in a group photo challenge of London landmarks on the study tour.
- Write and give a guided tour of your own hometown.
- Compare and Contrast present and past life in London.

Week includes:

Study Tour: London

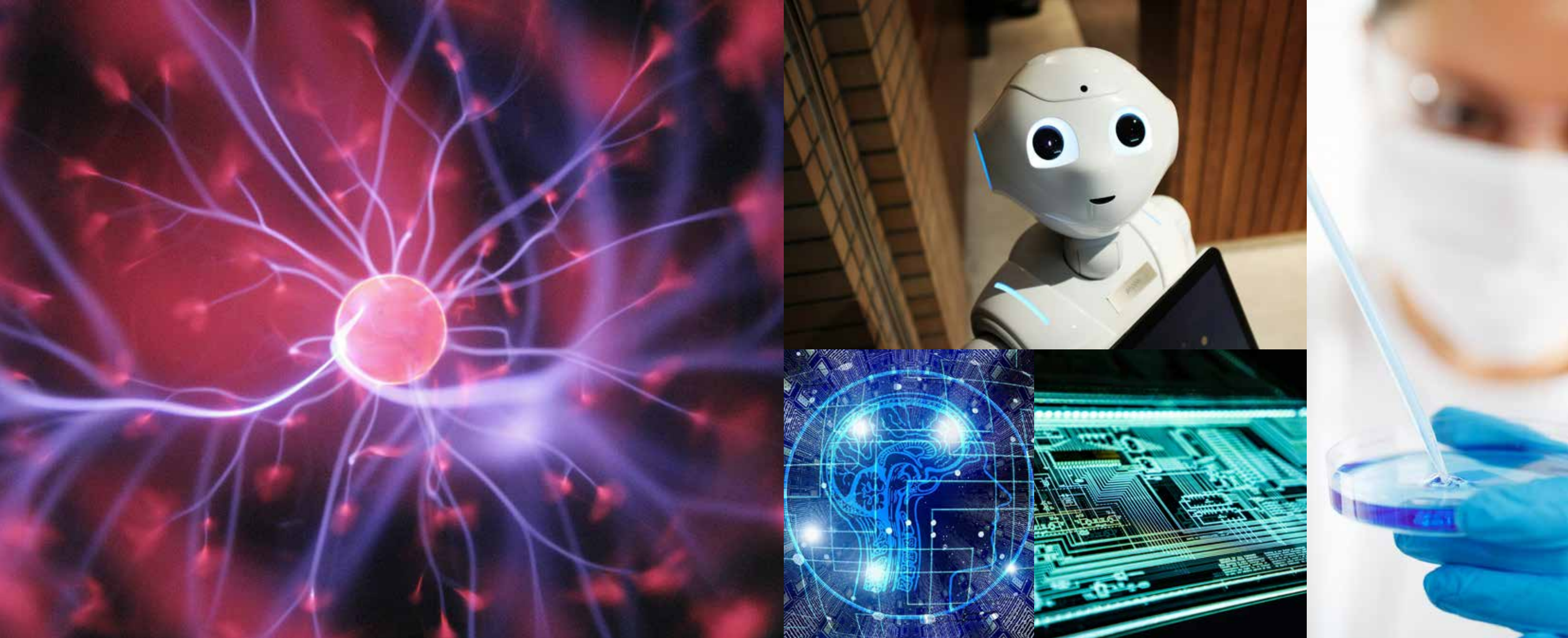
- London Eye

Stratford Upon Avon

Areas of Transdisciplinary Study:

- Sociology
- History
- Social Studies





WEEK 2:

The Future is Now

SUNDAY 11 JANUARY – SATURDAY 17 JANUARY

In this project students will embark on a journey to explore the pivotal role of science in shaping our present and future. By learning about cutting-edge technologies and visionary innovations and engaging in hands-on activities and collaborative projects, students will enhance their language skills while gaining a deeper understanding of the transformative power of science and technology in shaping the future of our world.

Example learning outcomes

Students will learn vocabulary related to technological innovations e.g. descriptive language for cutting-edge products and learn to accurately use the passive voice when talking and/or writing about technological devices.

Students will improve their writing skills by writing either an essay or a review of a product.

Students will develop and apply logical reasoning and analytical skills to evaluate evidence and solve real world challenges as well as learn to demonstrate the flexibility and resilience needed in order to solve contemporary issues.

Types of activities could include:

- Read an article about Science making a difference in shaping today's world.
- Write an essay about the advantages and the disadvantages of using mobile phones in the classroom.
- Describe an innovative product and/or write a review about it.

Week includes:

Study Tour: London

- Science Museum

Cambridge

Areas of Transdisciplinary Study:

Innovation and Technology

Ethics

Social Sciences



WEEK 3 & 4:

A Taste of Britain

SUNDAY 18 JANUARY – SATURDAY 31 JANUARY

In this project students will engage in a dynamic blend of interactive lessons and informative study tours to deepen their understanding of the UK’s rich cultural heritage. Students will gain insights into the unique identities of England and Scotland, while also reflecting on broader themes such as cultural diversity and global citizenship. Students will learn about the complexities of England’s cultural identity and the enduring legacy of its historical landmarks. The course will inspire them to become informed global citizens who value and respect cultural diversity.

Example learning outcomes

Students will learn key vocabulary related to UK landmarks, British culture, and travel experiences and learn how to accurately use comparative and superlative forms for comparing and contrasting lifestyle in the UK to their home countries.

Students will improve fluency and confidence in conversational English through immersive language practice during guided tours and cultural activities.

Students will develop their cross-cultural understanding and communication skills.

Areas of Transdisciplinary Study:

-  Sociology
-  Geography
-  History and Architecture

Types of activities could include:

- Read about the history, architecture, and cultural significance of the Tower of London and/or Edinburgh Castle.
- Carry out group discussions and debates on topics such as British traditions, cultural diversity and global citizenship.
- Answer a quiz about the city of Edinburgh.

Week includes:

Study Tour: 3 day trip to Edinburgh

- Museum of Scotland
- Edinburgh Castle

London

- Tower of London
- Big Bus Tour



WEEK 5:

Into the Unknown

SUNDAY 1 FEBRUARY – SATURDAY 7 FEBRUARY

This project challenges students to think like explorers—both past and present—by pushing beyond known limits and embracing the unknown. Through the stories of great adventurers, space pioneers, and world travellers, students will reflect on the risks, triumphs, and challenges of exploration. Through engaging activities, students will enhance their language skills, critical thinking abilities, and intercultural awareness while developing a mindset of perseverance and adaptability.

Types of activities could include:

- Learn how to pack the ideal backpack.
- Watch a video about space exploration.
- Read an article about leaving your comfort zone.

Week includes:

Study Tour: London

- The British Museum

Example learning outcomes

Students will expand vocabulary related to the topics of adventure, exploration, and geographical landmarks e.g. compound nouns "sleeping bag", "water bottle" and extreme adjectives to talk and/or write about places "amazing", "ancient".



Students will learn to effectively use functional language e.g. giving directions, making suggestions.



Students will reflect on personal experiences of travel and discovery, gaining a deeper appreciation of different cultures and the ways exploration shapes their world.



Areas of Transdisciplinary Study:



Sciences

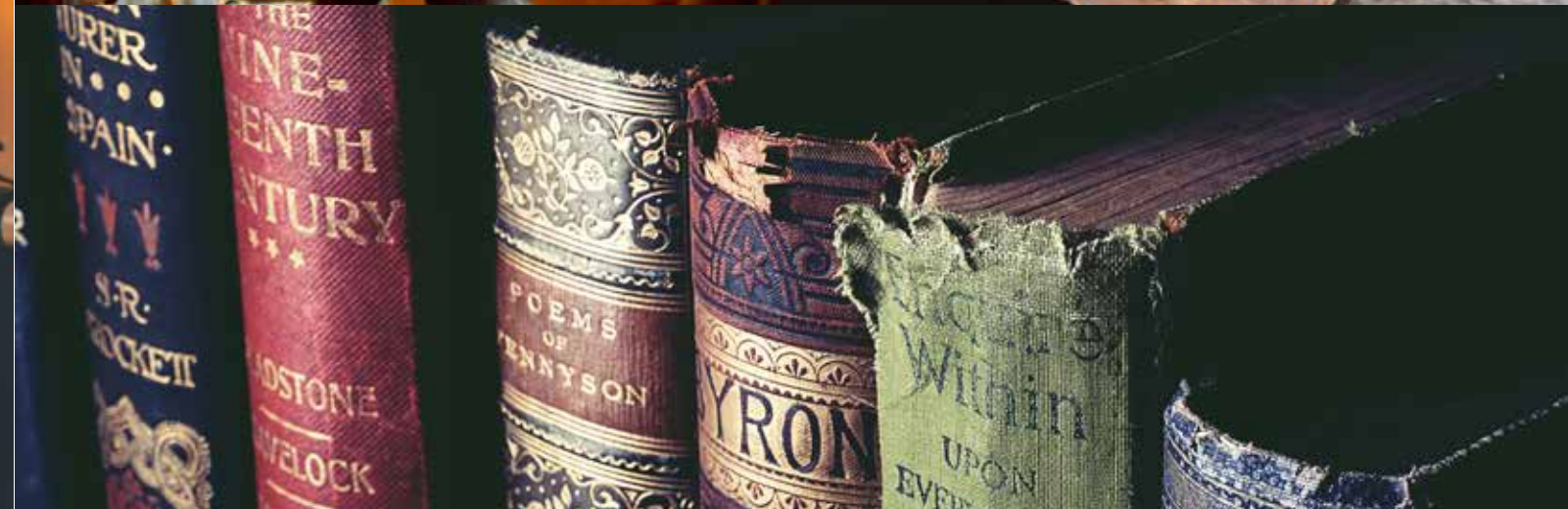


Literature



History & Geography





WEEK 6:

Rise of a Hero

SUNDAY 8 FEBRUARY – SATURDAY 14 FEBRUARY

In this project, students will analyze what makes a compelling hero, from their strengths and flaws to the challenges they must overcome. By engaging in discussions and creative activities, students will uncover how heroes evolve through their adventures and apply these ideas to their own storytelling. While exploring legendary figures and magical heroes like those in Harry Potter, students will also examine ordinary heroes—real-life individuals who display courage, resilience, and determination in everyday life.

Example learning outcomes

- Students will learn vocabulary related to magic, myths, and legends, including terms specific to fantasy literature and film e.g. "wizard", "phoenix", "bewitched", "haunted" and learn to accurately use grammatical structures to write stories i.e. narrative tenses, adverbs and adjectives, and linking and sequencing words.
- Students will learn functional language to give personal opinions, express likes and dislikes, and make recommendations.
- Students will improve their creative writing skills by working on their fictional stories.

Types of activities could include:

- Read a biography of a real hero.
- Discussing key themes, characters, and plot devices in selected works of literature e.g. Harry Potter.
- Write a fictional story using descriptive language and narrative tenses.

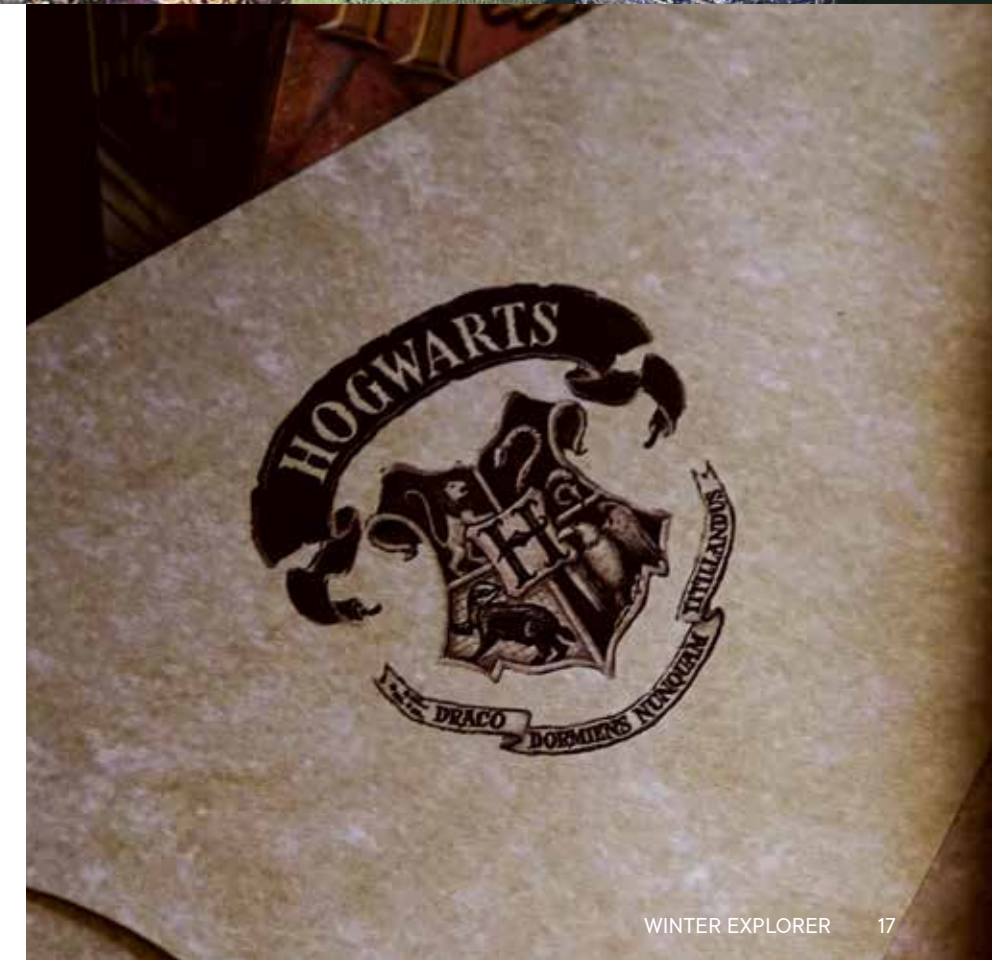
Week includes:

Study Tour: London

- Harry Potter World

Areas of Transdisciplinary Study:

- English Literature
- Media Studies
- History





Facilities

-  Bright, spacious classrooms, many with interactive whiteboards
-  Free wireless internet
-  Dining room
-  Art room
-  Disabled access/facilities
-  On-site sports fields
-  Peaceful, countryside setting

Accommodation

-  Separate accommodation blocks for boys and girls
-  A dedicated houseparent in every boarding house

Travel

FREE transfers* on scheduled arrival and departure days from:

-  London Heathrow 47 km
-  London Stansted 60 km
-  St. Pancras 31 km

* For flight arrival/departures between 10am and 5pm or specific trains. Custom transfers can be arranged – ask us for details.

