

Quilting and Textiles Tour to ENGLAND
September 29 - October 10, 2010

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Day 1 - September 29

Arrive London Heathrow airport. Meet your escort and driver who will be with you throughout the tour. Driving westward into The Royal County of Berkshire we will have a good view of Windsor Castle, one of the country homes of the Queen. Travelling north, we pass the University City of Oxford and into the Cotswolds, a scenic area of rolling hills and villages where the houses are constructed from the distinctive local stone.

The gateway to the Cotswolds is the town of Burford where we can stop for a short break. This pretty little town is full of old houses, interesting shops, a coaching inn and the parish church overlooking the river Windrush.

We pass through the rolling countryside sign posted with unusual village names like Bourton on the Water, Lower Slaughter and Upper Swell. Eventually we reach Stow on the Wold, the highest point in the Cotswolds: from there it's a steep descent into the attractive village of Broadway with its black and white timbered houses gathered round a village green.

We arrive at the village of Mickleton and the Three Ways House Hotel – our accommodation for one night. This hotel is famous as the home of The Pudding Club where the tradition of the great English pudding is kept very much alive. Dinner is included tonight

Overnight Three Ways Hotel. (D)

Day 2 - September 30

We travel north today passing through Stratford on Avon, birthplace of William Shakespeare. We can stop to see the town and visit Anne Hathaway's cottage before travelling on to Redditch. This is the location for the Forge Mill Needle Museum that catalogues the history of the production of needles – in fact the Museum was once a needle factory.

North again and into the county of Derbyshire, we are now in the Peak District National Park, an area of high peaks, wind blown moorland and villages of sturdy house sheltering in the valleys. This area is a complete contrast to the Cotswolds: this is challenging countryside but with a wild beauty of its own. (cont.)

Day 2 - September 30 (cont.)

Our destination is the spa town of Buxton where we stay for one night. Our hotel has been looking after visitors since 1878 and has an imposing façade designed by Henry Curry who was the architect to the Duke of Devonshire of the time. Inside it is very much up to date with an indoor swimming pool and an elegant restaurant where you can enjoy the included dinner tonight. Overnight Palace Hotel Buxton (B.D.)

Day 3 - October 1

Today we visit Chatsworth House, one of Englands most famous stately homes. Here, you can take coffee in the home of the Duke of Devonshire! Then it's northward into the county of Yorkshire and to the city of York where we stay for three nights.

Though our hotel is within the city walls and just walking distance from the main attractions, it is a modern building with a very contemporary interior design.

Overnight Hotel 53, York (B.)

Day 4 - October 2

No travelling today so enjoy a morning at leisure. In the afternoon we visit the Quilters Museum, headquarters of the Quilters Guild of Great Britain. The staff can provide a reception and welcome to the Museum and talk through the current exhibition

Dinner is included tonight.

Overnight Hotel 53, York (B.D)

Day 5 - October 3

York is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the UK. This walled city has so many exciting things to offer including the magnificent York Minster, the Jorvik Viking Centre and the York Living Museum where you can walk around in a replica of the centre of York as it was in Victorian times.

We will take a guided walking tour around the centre of York. The old part of the town, with the Minster as the centerpiece, is full of narrow lanes, timbered houses and cobbled streets.

Overnight Hotel 53, York (B.)

Day 6 - October 4

We journey south today into the county of Nottinghamshire. This is the land of the legendary Robin Hood, the outlaw who stole from the rich to give to the poor. He and his band of followers lived in Sherwood Forest, which we pass through. Our accommodation for one night is in the city centre of Nottingham

We plan a meeting with local quilters this evening.

Overnight Jurys Hotel, Nottingham (B)

Day 7 - October 5

In earlier times, Nottingham was the manufacturing centre for the lace industry and this morning we make a visit to the Lace Market area where you can hear about the history of the industry. Later, we travel down the Great North Road into the town of Stamford that in earlier times prospered from the passing stage coach traffic.

Our next stop is the village of Hemmingford Greys where we make a visit to The Manor House. Built in the 1130's this is believed to be the oldest, continuously inhabited house in England. The house was recreated and made famous as the house of Green Knowe by Lucy Boston in her series of children's books, now regarded as classics. Her son Peter's illustrations depict many of the things in the house and garden. The attic contains toys used by the fictional children of the past; thus visitors get the feeling of 'walking into the books'. In the winter, as well as writing, Lucy Boston made many exquisite patchworks, most of which are on display. Rarely can such an important collection be seen in the house in which the exhibits were made.

After this visit we travel onward to the historic university city of Cambridge where we stay for one night. Our hotel is beautifully located overlooking the river Cam and just a short walk from the ancient colleges that make up this famous university

There is a possibility of a meeting with local quilters this evening

Overnight Arundel House Hotel (B)

Day 8 - October 6

This morning we take a guided walking tour of Cambridge, visiting the colleges, the Chapel of Christ Church and the banks of the river Cam.

The last part of our journey takes us south and by late afternoon we will arrive in London for a four night stay. The hotel is in fashionable Kensington, close to the shopping areas of High Street Kensington and Knightsbridge. You are also close to the Victoria and Albert Museum, which houses an exhibition of quilts.

Overnight Copthorne Tara Hotel (B.)

Day 9 - October 7

A special program is in store today as we drive south to Hampton Court, an historic palace built in the reign of Henry VIII. Within these buildings are housed the headquarters of two separate organizations - the Embroiderers Guild and the Royal School of Needlework. There is a tour of the Guild collection in the morning and then time to explore the Palace and maybe have lunch. In the afternoon there is a private tour of the Royal School of Needlework.

Overnight Copthorne Tara Hotel (B.)

Day 10 - October 8

Today we travel across London to the Alexandra Palace Exhibition complex. Set on a hill overlooking the city of London, this was the original site of the first BBC television studios. Today it hosts many different types of events and our visit takes us the Knitting and Stitching Show – one of the major textile events in the UK. You can spend a whole day at the show before returning to the hotel.

Overnight Copthorne Tara Hotel (B.)

Day 11 - October 9

Today you are free to explore London on your own. A short journey by bus or subway brings you into the heart of the capital and a choice of things to do. A sightseeing bus will take you past Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace, the London Eye, the Tower of London and the City. Or shop till you drop in Oxford Street, Regent Street, Piccadilly or Bond Street. Join up with your travelling friends for a farewell dinner tonight.

Overnight Copthorne Tara Hotel (B.D)

Day 12 - October 10

Transfer to Heathrow Airport for homeward flight.

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Tour cost: **\$3,995**
- Land Only Based on Twin Accommodation (two persons sharing)
- Including taxes

Single supplement **\$600**

Tour cost includes:

11 nights hotel accommodation as per itinerary
11 Breakfasts
4 evening dinners
Admissions to:
Redditch Needle Museum
Chatsworth House
York Quilting Museum
Lucy Boston's House
Knitting and Stitching Exhibition
Embroiderers Guild
Royal School of Needlework
Guided walking tours in York and Cambridge
Transport by private coach
Tour escort from UK
Meetings with local quilters
Porterage at hotels