



THE WEST COUNTRY

JUNE 8TH - 17TH 2017

The southwest peninsula of England, made up of the counties of Cornwall, Devon, and Somerset, is known as “The West Country.” It is an ancient land, rife with myth and legend, and staunchly independent from the “mainland” of England. This journey through the mists of the Celtic past brings to life many of those ancient legends.

Part of the region’s uniqueness comes from its climate, one that attracts English holiday makers during the summer season. Washed by the warming currents of the Gulf Stream, the peninsula enjoys its own microclimate that allows palm trees to grow along the coast at a latitude equivalent to that of Nova Scotia on the North American continent!

We’ll take the British Airways daytime flight from Boston to minimize the effects of jet-lag and be met on arrival by our Discover Europe guide, David Phillips. We’ll visit gardens, castles, cathedrals, and ancient unspoiled towns and villages, and see areas of unparalleled natural beauty – including the coastal village of Port Isaac, better known as Port Wenn from the TV series, Doc Martin.

And through it all will run the theme of the Arthurian legends. From the Vale of Avalon and Arthur’s (alleged) grave site in the ruins of Glastonbury Abbey, through the lost land of Lyonesse, and on to his birthplace at Tintagel, this ancient tale will keep cropping up on our travels through this beautiful part of England. Why not join BCS Director, Sandi Tinyk this spring and come and explore The West Country?



ST. MICHAEL'S MOUNT



THE RUINS OF TINTAGEL CASTLE

THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

BARRINGTON VIA BOSTON DEPARTURE:	\$4650
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	\$ 980

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

AIRFARE:	Round trip air from Boston to London. All airport taxes and customs charges included.
HOTELS:	9 nights accommodation in first-class hotels with hotel taxes and service charges included.
COACHING:	All ground transportation as detailed in the day-by-day itinerary.
MEALS:	Breakfast daily, 5 dinners.
GUIDES:	BCS Director Sandi Tinyk and a fully-qualified Discover Europe tour guide throughout.
EXPENSES:	Porterage of one large suitcase per person.
ENTRANCES:	Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary.

*Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour.
Insurance information will be mailed to each registration on receipt of deposit.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION & REGISTRATION PLEASE CONTACT:
SANDI TINYK AT THE BARRINGTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL
(401) 245-0432



THURSDAY, JUNE 8th - Departure from Barrington by private coach to Boston, Logan Airport for our daytime flight to London. We will be met on arrival at Heathrow for the drive to our hotel near the city of Bath. We'll have a late, light supper on arrival at the hotel. **(D)**

OVERNIGHT: BATH AREA

FRIDAY, JUNE 9th - After a leisurely start to the day, our first stop will be Glastonbury. We'll tour the ruins of Glastonbury Abbey, see the graves of King Arthur and Queen Guinevere, and the Glastonbury Thorn. This tree is said to be 2000 years old and sprang from the staff of Joseph of Arimathea when he brought the Holy Grail here after the crucifixion. The town is dominated by Glastonbury Tor, a peculiarly-shaped mound rising from the flat surroundings of the Vale of Avalon.

Legend has it that Merlin erected the Tor as the last resting place of the Grail. From here it is a short drive to Wells, England's smallest city. We'll visit Wells Cathedral and the adjoining Bishop's Palace before continuing on to our hotel in Exeter, where dinner awaits. **(B, D)**

OVERNIGHT: EXETER

SATURDAY, JUNE 10th - A morning walking tour of Exeter, where much remains of the city's Roman and medieval walls, for a visit to Exeter Cathedral, with the longest Gothic vault in Europe. After free time for lunch, we'll gather again for an afternoon excursion to Castle Drogo, the last castle built in England, dramatically situated above the Teign Gorge. We return to Exeter for a free evening. **(B)**

OVERNIGHT: EXETER



PENZANCE HARBOR

SUNDAY, JUNE 11th - Taking a route along the south coast of the west country peninsula, our first stop today will be the historic port of Plymouth. We'll visit the Mayflower Steps and stroll around Plymouth Hoe before having free time for lunch. This afternoon we'll stop at the Lost Gardens of Heligan; abandoned after the first World War, these gardens have been lovingly restored to their former splendor in the last 10 years. Continuing along the south coast we arrive at our hotel in Penzance in time for dinner. **(B, D)**

OVERNIGHT: PENZANCE

MONDAY, JUNE 12th - Our excursion today to Land's End takes us through an area of ancient Celtic culture and outstanding natural beauty. Crystal clear seas vie with the heather and gorse of the moors - and prehistoric stone circles, standing stones, and settlement sites are scattered over the peninsula. Our afternoon will be spent exploring the beautiful little coastal towns of Mousehole and St Ives, known for its thriving artistic community. The evening is free in Penzance to explore and sample the restaurant of your choice. **(B)**

OVERNIGHT: PENZANCE

TUESDAY, JUNE 13th - This morning we pay a visit to the "jewel in the crown" of Mount's Bay: the island castle of St. Michael's Mount—possibly part of King Arthur's lost land of Lyonesse—with its 11th-century monastery and 15th-century fort. On our return to the mainland, the rest of the afternoon and evening are free. **(B)**

OVERNIGHT: PENZANCE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14th - Leaving Penzance, we take the north coast route, stopping first at Port Isaac – the Port Wenn from Doc Martin. Next we journey back in time to Tintagel Castle, legendary birthplace of King Arthur. Set on a wild and windswept headland, the ruins of this 13th-century castle were preceded by an Iron Age castle and settlement. From here we strike deep into the West Country moors—Bodmin Moor, steeped in Arthurian legend, with a prehistoric and medieval past that remains untouched by the passing centuries; and Dartmoor, one of the last true wildernesses in England. Our destination is the Somerset market town of Taunton. This evening we dine in Taunton at the Castle Hotel, our home for the next two nights. **(B, D)**

OVERNIGHT: TAUNTON



TINTAGEL'S "OLD" POST OFFICE

THURSDAY, JUNE 15th - Our day trip leaves this morning to explore the North Devon coast, with stops in Minehead, Porlock, and Lynmouth. The picturesque harbor in the seaside resort of Minehead lies beneath the old village, where steep lanes lead up to a 14th-century church. The quaint villages of Porlock and Lynmouth fall within the confines of Exmoor, some of the finest countryside in Britain. We'll end our day back in Taunton, where the evening is free. **(B)**

OVERNIGHT: TAUNTON

FRIDAY, JUNE 16th - We leave Taunton this morning and take to the motorway for the journey to Windsor, stopping for a break along the way. We'll arrive in time for lunch and a visit to Windsor Castle, the longest continuously inhabited royal residence in the world. After checking into the hotel, there will be time to relax before we gather and share stories of our adventures over our farewell dinner. **(B, D)**

OVERNIGHT: WINDSOR

SATURDAY, JUNE 17th - After a free morning to explore Windsor, we transfer to Heathrow Airport for our returning international flight back to Boston. On arrival at Logan Airport we will be met by our private coach for the transfer back to Barrington. **(B)**

Key to included meals: B - breakfast, L - lunch, D - dinner