



TUFTS TRAVEL-LEARN
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and



present

English Countryside: A Literary Ramble

September 6 - 12, 2013

Join us for an exploration of the literary connections of south central England from Coleridge to Dickens to Conan Doyle, and from Jane Austen to John Fowles, and a host of others. Included are visits to Winchester, Portsmouth, Lyme Regis, and Osborne House on the Isle of Wight, a favorite haunt of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert.

Their patronage turned the island into a popular destination for English holidaymakers for many decades. Nowadays, of course, the English tend to forsake their own seaside for warmer Mediterranean shores, leaving the island a very tranquil place, even in the summer – and one that not many American visitors get the chance to explore.

Our tour of the region encompasses all its varied aspects; from the ancient to the modern, from the historical to the literary, country pubs to stately homes, charming village churches to great gothic cathedrals, but throughout run the gentle green rolling hills that are the hallmark of this beautiful area. Please join us this fall for A Literary Ramble through the English Countryside. Dot Dudley, our much sought-after Osher study leader, will accompany our group with her customary store of literary insights and good cheer.

The cost of this itinerary, per person, double occupancy, is:

	Early-booking price Register by 04/01/13	Regular price Register by 07/01/13
Boston departure:	\$3790	\$3890
Land Only (no airfare)	\$2880	\$2980
Single supplement:	\$580	\$580

This includes the following:

- Airfare:** Roundtrip airfare from Boston to London.
All customs fees, fuel surcharges and airport taxes.
- Hotels:** 6 nights accommodation in first-class hotels.
All hotel taxes and service charges included.
- Coaching:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary.
- Meals:** Full English breakfast daily, 5 dinners.
- Guides:** Tufts/Osher host, Dot Dudley and tour director, David Phillips throughout.
- Expenses:** Porterage of one large suitcase per person.
- Entrances:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary.
- Insurance:** Tufts medical evacuation and assistance insurance. (For trip cancellation insurance, call Tufts Travel-Learn Program).



Osborne House

Please note: Participants who are not members of Osher LLI are required to pay the \$35 Osher LLI membership fee.



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Friday, September 6th

Overnight: Windsor

Morning departure from Boston, Logan Airport aboard British Airways daytime service to London. We will be met at Heathrow Airport for the transfer to our hotel in nearby Windsor, where a late supper will await us. (D)

Saturday, September 7th

Overnight: Portsmouth

Our first visit this morning will, hopefully, be to Highclere Castle, the home of Lord and Lady Carnarvon. Highclere has become famous recently as the setting of the TV series Downton Abbey and our ability to visit will largely be determined by the filming schedule for 2013 (yet to be announced). Another visit will be substituted should Highclere be unavailable. We'll continue on to Winchester, the ancient Saxon capital of England. We'll have time for lunch and then visit Winchester Cathedral, the final resting place of Jane Austen. From here it is a short drive south to Portsmouth, our base for the next three nights. (B, D)

Sunday, September 8th

Overnight: Portsmouth

Our day in Portsmouth will begin with a visit to the Charles Dickens Birthplace Museum, the house where the great novelist was born in 1812, and lived for a short while thereafter. From here we will visit the Portsmouth City Museum with its excellent collection highlighting the life of Arthur Conan Doyle in the city. We'll take a break for lunch and then spend the afternoon at the Historic dockyard with visits to the HMS Victory and the new Mary Rose (Henry VIII's ill-fated flagship) exhibition. The evening is free to sample a local restaurant. (B)



HMS Victory at Portsmouth

Monday, September 9th

Overnight: Portsmouth

Today we will cross the Solent to the Isle of Wight. Our first stop will be at Carisbrooke Castle. Built on the site of a Roman Fort, the present castle is of Norman origin and is famous as the place of imprisonment of King Charles I in 1648, the year prior to his execution. From here we will spend the rest of the day at Osborne House, a favorite residence of Queen Victoria. Originally built as a "holiday home" it was designed in the Italianate style by Thomas Cubitt, and, it is said, with help from Prince Albert. Victoria spent her last years here and died in Osborne House in 1901. We'll return to our hotel in Portsmouth for dinner. (B, D)

Tuesday, September 10th

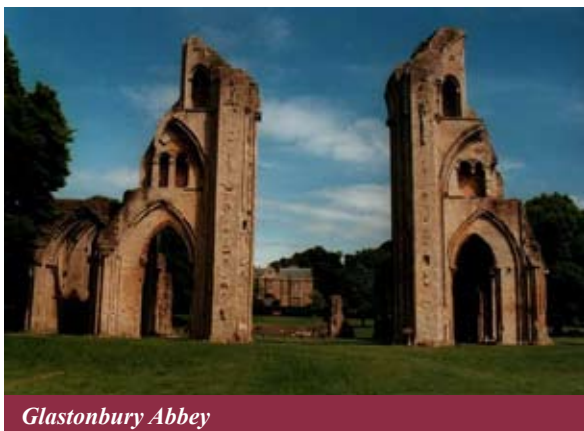
Overnight: Taunton

Our route today takes us along the south coast from Portsmouth to Lyme Regis and inland to the city of Taunton, through the heart of Thomas Hardy's "Wessex." We'll drive through the edge of the New Forest (so named by William the Conqueror in 1079!) and into the Isle of Purbeck. Although not really an island, this area of Dorset is renowned for its natural beauty and we'll visit the Corfe castle and see the Saxon town of Wareham before heading for the "Jurassic Coast." These cliffs get their name from the abundance of fossils to be found there. Continuing along the coast we'll by-pass Dorchester (Hardy's Casterbridge) and stop in Lyme Regis, a beautiful little town with literary connections from Hardy to John Fowles (it was the setting of The French Lieutenant's Woman). As Jane Austen wrote: 'a very strange stranger it must be, who does not see charms in the immediate environs of Lyme, to make him wish to know it better.' From here it is a short drive to our hotel in Taunton and dinner. (B, D)

Wednesday, September 11th

Overnight: Taunton

We'll begin the day with a brief stop in Watchet on the North Devon coast before paying a visit to Coleridge's Cottage in the village of Nether Stowey. From here we drive through the Vale of Avalon to Glastonbury, a sleepy little town saturated with Arthurian legend. We'll visit the ruined abbey and have time for lunch before continuing to Montacute House, a beautiful Elizabethan mansion that contains a wonderful collection from the National Portrait Gallery. We return to Taunton for a farewell dinner at our hotel. (B, D)



Glastonbury Abbey

Thursday, September 12th

Overnight: Home

We return to Heathrow Airport today to catch a late afternoon flight back to Boston. On the way we'll detour off the motorway to drive along the Marlborough Downs to see the White Horses and other figures carved into the sides of the chalk hills. We'll make a lunch stop in Avebury, where the stone circle encloses most of the village, before making our way to the airport. (B)

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