



A Mystery Tour

A Celebration of the Great British Detective Novel

November 6 - 14, 2015

The English landscape, her ancient villages and soaring cathedral cities resonate with the drama and suspense that England's finest mystery writers have evoked for centuries. The wild moors, quiet villages, narrow cobbled medieval lanes and magnificent cathedrals lend themselves perfectly to the mood of the mystery novel. Immerse yourself in the settings and scenes from some of the world's best-loved mysteries and experience England at its most magical and mysterious.

We begin in Windsor at the Oakley Court Hotel, on the banks of the river Thames. This historic Victorian house looks like the setting for a murder mystery and has been used as such in several films. It was the setting for the 1976 mystery farce *Murder by Death* as well as featuring as Dr Frank N Furter's castle in the *Rocky Horror Picture Show*.

Then we wend our way down to England's stunning West Country and the world of Agatha Christie. We'll visit the Torquay Museum and the Agatha Christie Memorial Room at Torre Abbey, and explore some of the Devon villages where Agatha spent much time.

Returning to London by train, we spend an evening at the longest running West End play, Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap* and spend time with another much-loved 20th century writer – Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The fictional world of Sherlock Holmes and Watson is brought to life as we explore the nooks and crannies of their Baker Street neighborhood. The "denouement" of our tour will be a day trip on the Orient Express, complete with lunch and a murder mystery to solve.

Join us this November and help us celebrate the great British murder mystery!



Oakley Court



All Aboard!

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

Land only (no airfare included): **\$4580**
Single supplement: **\$760**

Airfares are available from many U.S. cities. Please call for details.

The following services are included:

- Hotels:** 7 nights accommodation in first-class hotels.
All hotel taxes and service charges included.
- Trains:** First-class tickets reading-Exeter-London.
Day trip on the Orient Express.
- Coaching:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary.
- Meals:** Full breakfast daily, 1 lunch, 4 dinners.
- Tour Guide:** *Discover Europe* tour guide throughout. Local guide for Sherlock Holmes walking tour in London.
- 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.





Friday, November 6. Departure from your chosen gateway city aboard an overnight flight to London. **Overnight: Plane**

Saturday, November 7. We will meet you on arrival in London and transfer you to our hotel in nearby Royal Windsor. There is time to unpack and rest from the flight before your tour guide takes you on a brief walking tour of the neighborhood, including a visit to Windsor castle. An evening dinner party at the hotel brings the group together. **(D)** **Overnight: Windsor**

Sunday, November 8. Leaving Windsor this morning, we drive the short distance to Reading Station where we board the inter-city express train to Exeter. On arrival we'll transfer to our hotel, check in and have time for lunch. This afternoon we'll take a brief walking tour of Exeter, where much remains of the city's Roman and medieval walls, and visit Exeter Cathedral, with the longest Gothic vault in Europe. Dinner is included at the hotel this evening. **(B, D)** **Overnight: Exeter**

Monday, November 9. A day on the trail of Agatha Christie. We begin in Torquay, at Torre Abbey; originally a 12th-century abbey, this extensive estate now houses the Agatha Christie Memorial Room and contains portraits and photographs as well as her famous typewriter. We'll continue to the parish church of All Saints, built with money from the Christie family. She was baptised here in 1890 and the font is still used today. Leaving Torquay, we'll stop for lunch in the village of Churston Ferrers, which Agatha loved and visited many times. It will remind you strongly of Miss Marple's St Mary Mead! Heading further around the coast we'll look at Burgh Island, all 26 acres of it privately owned (so unfortunately we can't visit). It was in the sumptuous Art Deco mansion, today a hotel, that Agatha Christie stayed for three weeks (having been invited for three days!). Her novels *Evil Under the Sun* and *And Then There Were None* were both inspired by Burgh Island. We return to our hotel in Exeter for a free evening. **(B)** **Overnight: Exeter**



Dartmoor

Tuesday, November 10. Our day trip from Exeter today takes us deep into the West Country moors—Dartmoor, one of the last true wildernesses in England and the setting for *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. We continue on to visit Castle Drogo, the last castle built in England, dramatically situated above the Teign Gorge. You'll have free time in Exeter on our return before we gather for dinner at the hotel. **(B, D)** **Overnight: Exeter**

Wednesday, November 11. This morning we board our Intercity train for London. On our arrival at Paddington station, we'll transfer to our central London hotel. After checking in, we'll pause for lunch before entering the fictional world of Conan Doyle. This leisurely walking tour with a Sherlock Holmes expert brings the stories to life as we walk the very same streets and alleyways featured in the stories. Dinner is included at the hotel this evening. **(B, D)** **Overnight: London**

Thursday, November 12. A completely free day to explore London. As Dr. Samuel Johnson said, "The man who is tired of London is tired of life, for in London there is all that life can afford!" Explore the galleries and museums of the city, enjoy shopping along Oxford Street, or join the crowds in the markets of Covent Garden or Camden Lock. There will be time for an early supper, or perhaps tea at Brown's, before we gather for an evening at the theatre in the West End, of course it has to be London's (now the world's) longest-running play, Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap*. **(B)** **Overnight: London**



221B Baker Street

Friday, November 13. Our celebration of the English murder mystery concludes in style today aboard the legendary Orient Express. Leaving Victoria Station for a day through the beautiful Kent countryside, we'll take part in our very own murder mystery on board – and enjoy a five-course lunch with champagne while wondering whodunnit! We'll arrive back in time for a free evening. After that lunch, you may not feel like a full dinner, but your tour guide will be on hand to offer directions and suggestions. **(B, L)** **Overnight: London**

Saturday, November 14. You may have time for a final stroll through one of London's leafy parks, or some last minute souvenir shopping before your transfer back to the airport for returning flights home. **(B)** **Overnight: Home**

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