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2018 Walking in Britain

8 June – 28 June 2018 Version 3 2 FEB 2018

DAY 1 Fri 8 Jun **Edinburgh** After arriving in **Edinburgh** by air or rail check in at the **Royal Overseas League Hotel** from 1400 on. The hotel is on Princes Street right in the centre of Edinburgh's New Town - specific directions later. We will meet at 1900 to have a welcome drink. We are staying for **2 nights** at the **Hampton by Hilton, Edinburgh West End**

DAY 2 Sat 9 Jun **Edinburgh** **WALK 1 ARTHUR'S SEAT 5 km Grade 2** After breakfast we will make our way to Holyrood Palace for a 1½ hour morning walk with magnificent views over the city. The rest of the morning is free to explore the city. You could walk up the Royal Mile through the Old Town (12th Century) and then visit **Edinburgh Castle** or the Museum of Scotland. After lunch we will meet up before driving down to Leith to go aboard the **Royal Yacht Britannia**. Tonight we will have a welcome dinner in nearby Rose Street **B D**

DAY 3 Sun 10 Jun **The Scottish Highlands – Stirling & Glen Coe** **WALK 2 INVERORAN 6 km Grade 2** Leaving Edinburgh we will head northwest to **Stirling Castle**. This is one of the most impressive castles in Scotland, close to Stirling Bridge, the site of a famous victory in 1297 when William Wallace drove an English Army all the way back to the border. Then we will drive on to enter the Scottish Highlands at Tyndrum, our lunch stop. Our walk today starts at **the Bridge of Orchy** at the start of majestic Glen Coe. We will do a short section of the famous **West Highland Way** (150km from Glasgow to Fort William) to the **Hotel Inveroran**. It is a privilege to walk through even a small part of Glen Coe, the most spectacular of all the Scottish glens. Once back in the vans we will travel the length of the glen to our destination, **Onich** on Loch Leven. We will stay **4 nights** at the **Inn at Ardgour, Onich B**

DAY 4 Mon 11 Jun **The Scottish Highlands – the Isle of Skye** **WALK 3 TALISKER BAY 6 km Grade 1** We will be on the road early to travel via **Spean Bridge** and **the Kyle of Lochalsh**. It was from here that **Bonnie Prince Charlie** escaped to Skye in 1746 disguised as a lady's maid. Morning tea will be at Deli Gaste in Broadford. Then on back roads to **Talisker**. Although the walk is quite short and easy, one is rewarded by spectacular coastal scenery. You can explore the unique beach and nearby waterfall before having a picnic on the sand. On the return journey we will stop at **Eilean Donan**, one of Scotland's best castles. **B**

DAY 5 Tue 12 Jun **The Scottish Highlands – Jacobite Steam Train to Mallaig** The full day excursion from Fort William to Mallaig, a fishing port on the Irish Sea is one of the most popular in the UK. The historic train was the inspiration for the **Hogwart's Express** from the Harry Potter films and it passes over the famous **Glenfinnan Viaduct** near Loch Shiel where Bonnie Prince Charlie landed in 1745 to begin the Jacobite Rebellion. Mallaig is picturesque with plenty of pubs and cafes for lunch before returning to Fort William. Tonight we take dinner in Fort William **B D**

DAY 6 Wed 13 Jun **The Scottish Highlands – Ben Nevis** **WALK 4 BEN NEVIS 17 km Grade 5/6 or STEALL FALLS and NEVIS GORGE 4km Grade 2/3** Ben Nevis is the highest mountain in the UK and as such is a magnet for serious walkers. On fine days it is long but with no technical difficulties. In bad weather however it can be very challenging. If we are lucky with the weather, we will be able to start the ascent from near Fort William otherwise we may have a go at the alternative, low level, walk to Steall Falls. **B**

DAY 7 Thu 14 Jun **The Lake District – Hadrian's Wall** Farewell to the Highlands as we embark on the longest drive of the tour – 375km from Onich to Grasmere. We will head south through Glen Coe towards Loch Lomond where we will have lunch at the **Loch Lomond Arms Hotel** in Luss. We will then continue on around Glasgow for an afternoon tea stop on the M6. Near Carlisle we will turn east to visit **Hadrian's Wall**. Then we will be off south west to the Lake District and our destination, Grasmere. We will stay **4 nights** at the **Dale Lodge Hotel, Grasmere B L**

DAY 8 Fri 15 Jun **The Lake District - Grasmere** **WALK 5 GRASMERE CIRCUIT 6 km Grade 2** A good day for a sleep in and a late breakfast before exploring the charming village of Grasmere. This is Wordsworth country; the poet is buried in the village church. After the long day in the van, today's walk will be a welcome stretch of the legs, amidst stunning lake and mountain scenery. **B**



Hadrian's Wall



Ullswater – Lake District



Tudor house

DAY 9 Sat 16 Jun **The Lake District** A free day in the Lake District. For intrepid walkers, major fells such as Helleven and Scafell Pike may beckon while there are many easier walks quite close to Grasmere. Keswick and Ambleside vibrant towns and well worth a visit while there are lake cruises and train rides to be had. **B**

DAY 10 Sun 17 Jun **The Lake District – Ullswater** **WALK 6 ULLSWATER 11 km Grade 3/4**, Let's get away early for what will be an unforgettable walk. Firstly we have to drive over the challenging Kirkstone Pass before descending to Glenridding. Here we will board a steamer for the trip up the lake – Ullswater to Howtown. The walking is great and the views delightful, After a packed lunch half way along, we should arrive in time for a celebratory pint at the Glenridding pub before returning to Grasmere in time for a visit to **Dove Cottage**, the birth place of William Wordsworth. **B**

DAY 11 Mon 18 Jun **Snowdonia – North Wales** Today we will travel through Cumbria, Lancashire and Cheshire on a 262 km journey from the Lake District to Snowdonia in Wales. Initially we will drive past **Windemere** before joining the M6 and heading south towards Manchester and then **Chester** some 35 km to the west. This historic Roman walled town is impressive and a good place for lunch. Leaving Chester we will soon be in Wales at our final destination - **Betws-y-Coed**. We will stay **3 nights** at the **Royal Oak Hotel, Betws-y-Coed** **B**

DAY 12 Tue 19 Jun **Snowdonia** **WALK 7 CYM IDWAL 4 km Grade 3** This morning we will head for Lake Ogwen and a walk in an alpine cirque. This is a great little walk in Snowdonia with spectacular glacial scenery. The afternoon is free to wander about the town **B D**

DAY 13 Wed 20 Jun **Snowdonia** **WALK 8 SNOWDON** All our walks are weather dependent, none more so than walks in Snowdonia. However, let's be positive about this day when we do Snowdon, the highest peak in England and Wales. We have **three options**: **LLANBERIS PATH & RETURN 14 km Grade 5** A 7 km slog up the exposed southern slopes of Snowdon then lunch at the summit before returning to the village on the same path. Tough but ultimately rewarding
LLANBERIS PATH DESCENT 7 km Grade 4 Catch the **Snowdon Mountain Railway** up to the summit then lunch before walking down. Still a challenge on a steep and rocky path.
THE SNOWDON MOUNTAIN RAILWAY Grade 1 For those who do not wish to tackle the peak on foot, a return trip on the Snowdon Mountain Railway is your option. Great views from the summit + a unique train experience + lunch in the summit restaurant **B**

DAY 14 Thu 21 Jun **Ludlow** Leaving Betws-y-Coed we will head east on the A5 to the picturesque town of **Llangollen**, famous for its eisteddfod. This will be a good morning tea stop. Eventually we will leave Wales and enter the beautiful English county of Shropshire. Lunch will be in the market town of **Church Stretton**. Then on to Ludlow. We will stay **2 nights** at the **Town House, Ludlow** **B**

DAY 15 Fri 22 Jun **Ludlow** A relaxing day to explore the charming town of Ludlow, one of the most attractive in England. Ludlow is a thriving medieval market town and an architectural gem with a lively community feel, busy with events and festivals throughout the year. The historic town centre is situated on a cliff above the River Teme and is surrounded by the beautiful countryside of south Shropshire. It has a reputation for the quality of its food and drink with many excellent restaurants and cafes. There is much to explore here. In the afternoon we will visit nearby **Stokesay Castle**, a well preserved fortified manor house. There is also an option to visit the **Royal Worcester Museum** on this day. **B**



Windemere – Lake District



Jurassic Coast - Sidmouth



Trafalgar Square - London

DAY 16 Sat 23 Jun **Sidmouth** On leaving Ludlow we will head south along the Welsh border past Hereford to our lunch stop at **Tintern Abbey** in Wales. The ruined abbey is atmospheric and a great place to break the journey on the way to the south coast. In the afternoon we will cross the Severn back into England, passing Bristol and going close to Exeter. Eventually we will arrive in Devon at Sidmouth. Take a walk along the front with its Victorian hotels and spoil yourself with a fish and chips dinner. We will stay **1 night** at the **Mount Pleasant Hotel, Sidmouth** **B**

DAY 17 Sun 24 Jun **Lulworth Cove** **WALK 9 SALCOMBE HILL 5 km Grade 3** This morning's walk will be on part of the **South West Coast Path**, one of the country's best long distance walking trails, from Devon, through Dorset, Cornwall and Somerset. The section near Sidmouth is also part of the **Jurassic Coast**. Our walk goes through farmland down to the coast at **Salcombe Mouth**. There will be ample time to have a swim before we tackle the steep climb up **Salcombe Hill**. Back on the road it will be farewell to Devon as we travel east towards Dorset. Our lunch stop will be at **Lyme Regis**. This town was a very popular seaside resort in Victorian times and it retains a lot of that charm today, mixed in with modern-day tourist tackiness. However, it does have a lovely beach and a dramatic stone pier – **the Cobb**, made famous by the film "The French Lieutenant's Woman". We may also visit the fishing village of **Beer** (nothing to do with ale). Our final destination today will be tiny West Lulworth, right in the heart of the Jurassic Coast. We will stay **2 nights** at the **Lulworth Cove Inn, West Lulworth** **B D**

DAY 18 Mon 25 Jun **Lulworth Cove** **WALK 10 DURDLÉ DOOR 6 km Grade 2/3** The section of the Jurassic Coast near Lulworth Cove is spectacular with soaring cliffs, arches and stacks. A short but strenuous climb will take us from the cove to one of the most famous formations – **Durdle Door**. The return walk will take us through fields back to the hotel before walking around the stunning cove. Dorset is well known as the setting for **Thomas Hardy's** novels and the countryside is very evocative of scenes from "Far from the Madding Crowd" to name but one. **B**

DAYS 19 Tue 26 Jun **London** We will drive from Dorset to London today. Travelling north-east we will stop in **Lyndhurst** in the New Forest for a cream tea before moving on to **Highclere Castle**, used as "**Downton Abbey**" in the TV series. As the castle is not open every day we may substitute **Winchester Cathedral** and/or **Hampton Court Palace**. Then it is off to Heathrow to return our vehicles. Chauffeur driven vans will then whisk us to our central London hotel. We will stay **2 nights** at the **Citizen M, Tower Bridge London** **B**

DAY 20 Wed 27 Jun **London** a free day in one of the world's great cities. Farewell dinner before a **West End show** **B D**

DAY 21 Thu 28 Jun **London** Our tour ends in London at 1000 **B**

NB Hotels subject to confirmation and this itinerary is subject to change in accordance with the terms and conditions in the brochure. **B = breakfast D = dinner L = lunch**

INCLUSIONS

- 20 nights accommodation Breakfast every day + 5 dinners + 1 lunch
- Travel by minibus
- the services of qualified English speaking guides and drivers
- 10 guided walks – all optional Comprehensive travel notes
- **ENTRY FEES** Hampton Court Palace and/or Winchester Cathedral Tintern Abbey Highclere Castle (If open on 26 June)
Dove Cottage Stokesay Castle or the Royal Worcester Museum Snowdon Mountain Railway Eilean Donan Castle
Stirling Castle Royal Yacht Britannia Edinburgh Castle Housesteads Roman Fort
- **EXTRAS** London West End show Lake steamer on Ullswater Jacobean Steam Train

NOT INCLUDED International airfares and taxes Tips and personal expenses Travel Insurance - **COMPULSORY**