



GIPPSLAND
TRAVEL

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DISCOVERING LEGENDARY UK & IRELAND

1st August – 2nd September 2020

Personally Escorted by Jacquey Turner



The United Kingdom and Ireland is one of the most visited regions on the planet. It contains some of the world's most recognisable landmarks, historical sites dating back thousands of years, and unique natural environments.

World cities, quaint towns, beautiful countryside and remote and isolated areas and islands.

Saturday, 1 August

Melbourne - Dublin

(inflight meal)

We depart Gippsland in the evening to Melbourne Airport for an overnight flight to Dublin, Ireland. Departures are also available from other Australian cities.

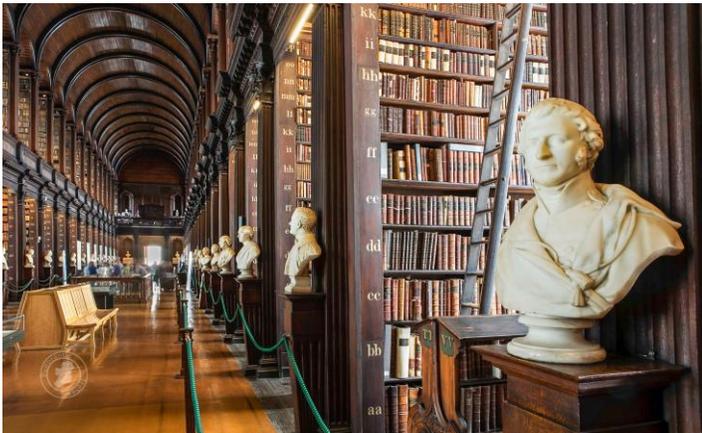
Sunday 2 & Monday 3 August

Dublin

(BB DD)

On arrival in Dublin, we shall be met and transferred to the CONRAD HOTEL, or similar, for two nights.

During our time in Dublin, our sightseeing tour will include views of **St Patrick's Cathedral**, built in 1191 and a visit to **Trinity College**, probably best known as the home to the famed 8th century the **Book of Kells**.



We shall also visit the world-famous **Guinness Storehouse**. There will be free time to enable you to further explore the medieval history of 'old' Dublin or get to know the city's locals who are always willing to join in for 'craic' (a good time). There will also be an included dinner at an **Irish House Party**.

Tuesday, 4 August

Dublin – Cork

(B D)

Today we head to Tully, Kildare to visit the **Irish National Stud**, home of Ireland's finest thoroughbreds, a source of national pride. Situated in the same grounds are the famous **Japanese Gardens**, created between 1906 and 1910. We then drive on to the **Waterford Crystal Visitor Centre** before arriving in Cork at the MARYBOROUGH HOTEL, or similar, for one night. Dinner tonight is included.

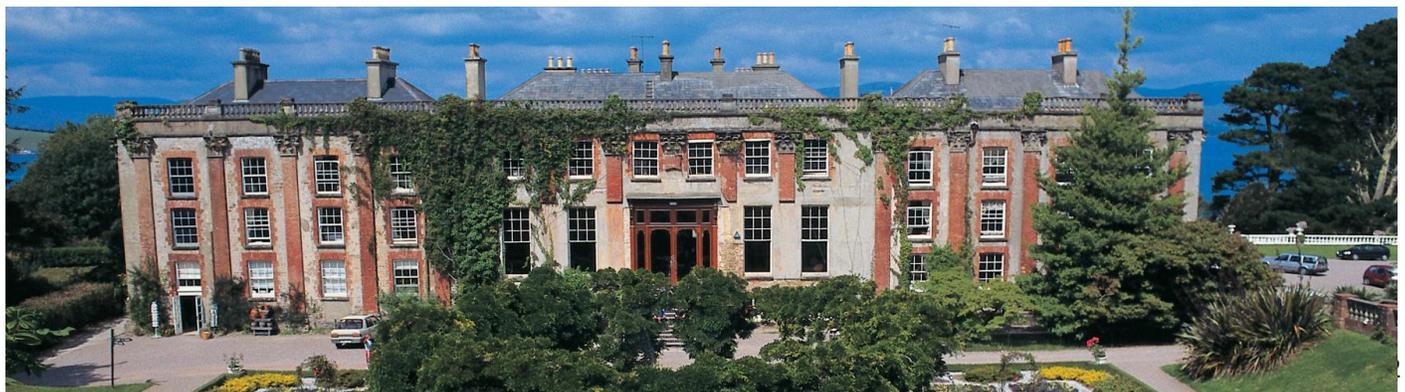
Wednesday, 5 August

Cork - Killarney

(B D)

First, we visit **Blarney Castle**, steeped in history and magical charm, and built over 600 years ago. For many visitors to Blarney, their first priority is to kiss the famous Blarney Stone high up on the Castle battlements. Tradition holds that those who kiss the Blarney Stone will be endowed with the gift of eloquence - "the gift of the gab", as the locals call it.

Our tour continues on to **Bantry House**, the ancestral house of the Earl of Bantry. This magnificent period residence boasts breathtaking views of Bantry Bay as well as an important collection of furniture and tapestries. We drive to **Killarney** and check into the KILLARNEY PLAZA HOTEL & SPA, or similar, for a two-night stay. Dinner tonight is included.





Thursday, 6 August

Ring of Kerry

(B)

Today is an unforgettable day of spectacular scenery as we drive around the **Ring of Kerry**. This 170km (almost 120 miles) circular route is one of Ireland's most popular tourist trails. Taking in Killarney National Park, this famous route offers panoramic views of the surrounding county and many islands off the Kerry coast. During our time in Killarney we shall sample Guinness and oysters. We arrive back at the hotel by mid afternoon.

Friday, 7 August

Killarney - Edinburgh

(B D)

We have an early start for the drive to Shannon Airport for our flight to Edinburgh. On arrival we shall visit the **Royal Yacht Britannia** before we check into the **KIMPTON CHARLOTTE SQUARE HOTEL**, or *similar*, for a two-night stay. Dinner tonight is included.

Optional extra:

The 2020 Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

7th – 29th August 2020

For those wishing to attend, tickets can be arranged at an additional cost, once they are released for sale and are subject to availability.





Saturday 8 August

Edinburgh

(B)

The historic City of Edinburgh has preserved over the years its own medieval atmosphere. Every corner of the city has its own story or legend. Our city sightseeing will include **Princes Street**, the **Royal Mile**, views of the **Parliament, Holyrood House** and a guided visit of **Edinburgh Castle**.

The afternoon will be free to enjoy this wonderful city.

Sunday, 9 August

Edinburgh – Dunkeld

(B D)

Our tour today departs for **Culross**, a National Trust village of beautifully preserved 16th and 17th century houses. In the 16th and 17th centuries, Culross was a thriving community, with a flourishing trade with the Low Countries, as evidenced by the architectural style of the village. We continue on to St Andrews with time to enjoy the medieval town and the famous golf course.

St Andrews is the home of golf, the sport having been played here for some 600 years. The Old Course is arguably the most famous golf course in the world.

We arrive in Dunkeld to check into **DUNKELD HOUSE HOTEL**, or *similar*, for one night. There is time to relax before dinner, which is included.



Monday, 10 August

Dunkeld – Inverness

(B D)

There is some free time in the morning to explore the village of Pitlochry before we visit a local whiskey distillery. After some time for lunch, our tour heads to **Inverness**, a city in the magnificent Highlands with a two-night stay at the BUNCHREW HOUSE, Inverness, or similar, with dinner.

Tuesday, 11 August

Inverness

(B D)

Today our sightseeing in this historic area will include the **Culloden Battlefield site**. The Battle of Culloden (16 April 1746) was the final clash between the French-supported Jacobites and the Hanoverian British Government in the 1745 Jacobite Rising. Culloden defeated the Jacobite cause—to restore the House of Stuart to the throne of the Kingdom of Great Britain—a decisive defeat.

It was the last battle ever to be fought on British soil. Our sightseeing also includes **Cawdor Castle**, dating from the late 14th century and **Clava Cairns**, a type of Bronze Age circular chamber tomb cairn.



Wednesday, 12 August

Inverness – Skye

(B D)

We depart Inverness and drive along the shores of **Loch Ness**, a large, deep, freshwater loch in the Scottish Highlands extending for approximately 37 km (23 miles) southwest of Inverness. Its surface is 15.8 metres (52 ft) above sea level. Loch Ness is best known for the alleged sightings of the legendary Loch Ness Monster, also known as "Nessie".

We will have a chance to visit **Eilean Donan**, a small island in Loch Duich. The island is dominated by a picturesque medieval castle, originally used in the early 13th century as a defence against the Vikings. Before our lunch break, we shall visit **Fort Augustus** then head across the bridge to the **Isle of Skye**, where we will check in to the SKYE-CUILLIN HILLS HOTEL, or similar, for a two-night stay. Dinner tonight is included.



Thursday, 13 August

Skye

(B D)

Today we will be travelling around the **Isle of Skye**. The island is renowned for its spectacular scenery, vibrant culture and heritage, and its abundant wildlife with birds from the tiny Goldcrest to magnificent Golden Eagle, mammals from Pygmy Shrew to Red Deer and fish from Saithe to Salmon. The wide range of geology and topography provides habitats for many wild flowers.

As we travel around the Island it's not unusual to hear snatches of Scottish Gaelic, the indigenous language of the area. Gaelic culture and heritage pervade the atmosphere, each part of the Island having its own tales of times past and plans for the future. A highlight will be a visit to the **Skye Museum of Highland Life**, a museum in Kilmuir, which is dedicated to preserving a township of thatched cottages as they would have been on Skye at the end of the 18th century.



Friday, 14 August

Skye – Loch Lomond

(B D)

We leave the beautiful Isle of Skye and head to Loch Lomond with part of our journey on board the world-famous **Jacobite Steam Train**. We shall stay at Loch Lomond which is 24 miles long and five miles wide and at its deepest point is some 600 feet deep. **Loch Lomond** must be the world's most famous Loch and has been much written about, both in song and verse. Dinner tonight is included after we settle in at the CAMERON HOUSE HOTEL, or similar, for one night.

Saturday, 15 August

Loch Lomond – Lake District

(B D)

Today we have a very scenic drive to the Lake District. On our way we shall visit a section of Hadrian's Wall. Stretching 73 miles from coast to coast, **Hadrian's Wall** was built to guard the wild north-west frontier of the Roman Empire. On our arrival to the Lake District, we shall spend the next two nights at the HILLTHWAITE HOUSE HOTEL, or similar.



Sunday, 16 August

Lake District

(B)

Our sightseeing today will include a cruise on **Lake Windermere**, the largest natural lake in England along with exploring some very quaint towns, **Ambleside**, **Grasmere village** where William Wordsworth is buried in the churchyard, and **Hawkshead**. We shall also visit **Hill Top**, Beatrix Potter's most beloved place, packed full of her favourite things and left just as she wanted it for visitors to enjoy. Tonight, is at leisure so maybe venture into the local village for dinner.

Monday, 17 August

Lake District – Cotswolds

(B D)

Liverpool is the home of the Beatles; the city that shaped their early music and lives. We will take a look through the famous locations from 1960s Liverpool that will give us an insight into The Beatles formative years. We then continue on to the heart of the Cotswolds via the pottery district of **Stoke-on-Trent** and have a stop at the **Wedgwood Visitor Centre** before we arrive at our hotel for the next three nights, the **LORDS OF THE MANOR HOTEL**, or similar. Dinner tonight is included.



Tuesday, 18 & Wednesday, 19 August

Cotswolds

(B L B D)

There is a lot to see in this stunning area so we have two full days of sightseeing in the Cotswolds including **Oxford**, famous for its University, **Stratford upon Avon** where we visit **Shakespeare's Birth Place** and **Anne Hathaway's Cottage** and **Blenheim Palace**, home to the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough and the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. Set in 2100 acres of beautiful parkland, the exquisite baroque palace is surrounded by sweeping lawns, formal gardens and the magnificent lake. On one of our days in the Cotswolds, lunch will be at a surprise location. We also spend time visiting beautiful **Hidcote Manor** and enjoying the beauty of the Cotswold region and pretty villages.

Thursday, 20 August

Cotswolds – Carlyon Bay

(B D)



Today we leave the stunning Cotswolds. Along the way we shall stop and have time in **Bath**, a unique city with its hot springs, splendid Abbey and Georgian stone crescents.

We will visit the **Roman Baths**, the heart of the World Heritage Site, where Romans built a magnificent temple and bathing complex that still flows with natural hot water.

We continue on and will check into the **CARLYON BAY HOTEL**, or similar, for the next three nights.

Friday, 21 & Saturday 22 August **Carlyon Bay** **(B B D)**

During our time in Cornwall we shall tour the west coast of Cornwall including **Land's End**, the most westerly point in mainland England, **The Minack Theatre**, (an open-air theatre jutting into the sea), and lovely **Cornish villages** where you can try a famous Cornish Pasty. Another highlight will be a visit to the **Lost Gardens of Heligan**, seat of the Tremayne family for more than 400 years and one of the most mysterious and romantic estates in England. A genuine secret garden, it was lost for decades; its history consigned to overgrowth. Here will shall enjoy a traditional Cornish Cream Tea. We shall also explore **Port Isaac** (Doc Martin country) and the pretty town of Padstow.



Sunday, 23 August **Carlyon Bay - Salisbury** **(B D)**

Our tour then takes us through the beautiful county of Somerset via Dartmoor, where we will stop at **Widcombe in the Moor**, a small village located within the heart of the Dartmoor National Park. Next we visit the world heritage site of **Stonehenge**, a powerful reminder of the once-great peoples of the late Stone and Bronze Ages. Erected between 3,000 BC and 1,600 BC, a number of the stones were carried hundreds of miles over land and sea, while antlers and bones were used to dig the pits that hold the stones. On arrival in Salisbury we check into the LEGACY ROSE AND CROWN HOTEL, or similar, for a one-night stay, then get together for dinner.





Monday, 24 August **Salisbury - Kent** **(B D)**

We shall spend some time at the world-famous **Portsmouth Historic Dockyard** where we shall explore the **HMS Victory**, **Mary Rose Museum** and **HMS Warrior**. We then continue to **Brighton**, situated along England's south coast. Once a tiny fishing village, Brighton has earned a reputation as a hip, somewhat bohemian resort town. We spend time at the **Brighton Pavilion** and then continue to Kent.

On arrival, we check into the LONDON BEACH COUNTRY HOTEL & SPA, or similar, for a three-night stay. The historic market town of **Tenterden** is in the County of Kent. It stands on the edge of the Weald, overlooking the valley of the River Rother. Dinner tonight will be at the hotel.

Tuesday, 25 & Wednesday, 26 August **Kent / Sussex** **(B B L L D)**

Our sightseeing in these beautiful areas will include **Batemans**, a 17th-century house located in Burwash, East Sussex. British author Rudyard Kipling lived in Bateman's from 1902 till his death in 1936. We will see the magnificent **Sissinghurst Castle Gardens**. Designed as a series of "rooms", each has a different character of colour and/or theme, divided by high clipped hedges and pink brick walls. We shall visit **Canterbury Cathedral**, one of the oldest Christian churches in England founded in 602AD.



We will travel on the **Kent & Sussex Railway**, a rural light railway that gently wends its way from Tenterden through the unspoilt countryside of the Rother Valley to the magnificent National Trust castle at **Bodiam** and visit **Great Dixter**, which dates from the mid-15th century, famous for its garden. One evening will be free and you may care to join me for an optional outing to a local pub for dinner. On the other night, we shall enjoy wine tasting and dinner at a renowned local winery in Tenterden.

Thursday, 27 August **Kent – London** **(B L D)**

We leave Kent and drive to London. We will spend time in **Greenwich** on the banks of the River Thames. Known for its maritime history, it's home to the **Cutty Sark**, a restored 19th-century ship, the huge **National Maritime Museum**, and the classical buildings of the **Old Royal Naval College**.

Before we head to lunch at Trafalgar Tavern, we shall visit the **Royal Observatory**, home of the famous Meridian Line and Greenwich Mean Time. After lunch we shall catch a ferry to Westminster.

In the afternoon we check in to the **RADISSON BLU EDWARDIAN HAMPSHIRE HOTEL**, or similar, for a four-night stay. Our hotel is centrally located right in Leicester Square. Dinner tonight is at a local restaurant.

With a wealth of history, culture and exciting attractions, there is plenty for us to see in London. During our time here our travels will include many attractions while still giving you ‘free time’ to explore this wonderful city.

Friday, 28 & Saturday 29 August

London

(B B)

During our time in London we will see **Trafalgar Square, Westminster, Piccadilly** and **Marble Arch**. We shall join the crowds to see the Changing of the Guards and take a tour of **Buckingham Palace**.

The tour also includes a visit to the **Houses of Parliament, the Tower of London, St Paul’s Cathedral, Westminster Abbey** and the **Cabinet War Rooms**, where we shall learn more about the man who inspired Britain’s finest hour, Winston Churchill. The evenings are free to maybe take in a West End show or enjoy one of the many local restaurants.





Sunday, 30 August

London

(B D)

Today is free for optional activities whether it is more sightseeing, shopping or browsing the local markets. All of London's famous galleries and museums are open on a Sunday and many of them are free and within walking distance of our hotel. This evening we take a flight on the **London Eye**, and then we will all get together for a special dinner to toast the end of our four-week tour.

There is so much to see and do in London. Please contact me if you have any particular interests or would like to see a production at one of London's famous theatres. You may like to consider a tour of Lord's Cricket Ground, a visit to Madame Tussauds or just exploring Covent Garden located right at our doorstep.

Monday, 31 August

London – Melbourne (B & inflight meal)

As the tour has come to an end, today we will be transferred to the airport for the flight to Dubai. We shall overnight at the hotel within Dubai Airport

Tuesday, 1 September

Dubai – Australia (in-flight meal)

Morning departure from Dubai to Australia.

Wednesday, 2 September

We shall arrive back in Melbourne in the morning and be met and transferred by coach back to Gippsland.





Roy will be our tour guide throughout the tour and has been a tour guide for over 20 years. Having studied history, he has now completed a Masters' degree in Archaeology and Heritage.

Apart from his interest in buildings and architecture, Roy particularly enjoys Prehistoric and Roman archaeology. He also enjoys gardening, cycling and walking, loves Australia and has a fabulous sense of humour.

YOUR TOUR ESCORT

Jacquey Turner has more than 30 years' experience as a highly successful travel agent and tour guide.

With this itinerary, Jacquey will show you some of her very favourite places. Along with the local guides she will ensure you have a most memorable journey.



DISCOVERING LEGENDARY UK & IRELAND

Tour Cost:	\$21,999	per person twin share
	\$ 6,199	single supplement

- Business class upgrades are available on application.
- Should you wish to extend your travel arrangements after the tour, please contact me to discuss further options.
- Should you select to travel on flights other than the included group flights, or upgrade to business/first class, payment for the air fares will be required at the time of booking the flights.
- The tour will only operate subject to a minimum of 20 participants. In the unlikely event that minimum numbers are not reached, a full refund of the deposit is applicable.

Payment Schedule:

Initial deposit	on booking	\$1000 per person
Second deposit:	due by 31 January 2020	\$3000 per person
Balance of payment	due by 24 April 2020	

INCLUSIONS

- Melbourne to Dublin, London to Melbourne via Dubai economy airfares and taxes
- Shannon to Edinburgh economy airfares and taxes
- All transfers including coach travel between Gippsland and Melbourne Airport
- Fully escorted throughout the entire tour by Jacquie Turner
- Hotel accommodation in twin-bedded/double rooms with private facilities – 4 star or better ranging from 5-star city hotels to our own private Manor house
- Experienced Tour Director, driver and local guides
- Large luxury, private, air-conditioned coach travel
- 55 meals as per itinerary - 30 Breakfasts (B), 4 Lunches (L), 21 Dinners (D)
- Extensive sightseeing and entry fees as per itinerary
- National Trust Membership Pass & Oyster Card
- Overnight accommodation at Dubai Airport Hotel
- Gippsland Travel hat/cap, water bottle holder, luggage tags & strap
- All local taxes, hotel service charges and portage of one suitcase per person
- **Tipping** of the Tour Director
- **Tipping** of all local guides, coach drivers and restaurant staff at included meals
- **Maximum of 25 tour participants**

EXCLUSIONS

- Travel insurance (a surcharge may apply for passengers over 70 years or if there is a pre-existing medical condition)
- Expenses of a personal nature like laundry, telephone/fax calls, alcoholic beverages, medical expenses
- Any meals not included in the itinerary

SPECIAL NOTES

Flight schedules are subject to change.

The order of the sightseeing may vary depending on local conditions.

CANCELLATION FEES

Cancellation fees cannot be credited to another booking. Notice of cancellation must be made in writing to Gippsland Travel Centre. For this tour the following fees apply:

Prior to tour departure	Cancellation fee
1 September 2019 to 31 January 2020	\$1000
1 February to 23 April 2020	\$4000
24 April to 31 August 2020	100% of tour cost

All costs are based on the exchange rate prevailing as at 21 August, 2019



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TERMS & CONDITIONS

LATE BOOKINGS

Higher deposit payments are required for late bookings. A guarantee of full payment is required at the time of booking for all bookings received within 4 weeks of departure.

BOOKINGS SOLD ON A SHARE BASIS

Bookings may be accepted on a share room basis on the proviso that the person requesting the share reservation agrees that while every effort will be made to match suitability of the passengers there is no guarantee that a share room can be provided. If a share room is not available at the time of final payment, either the single room alternative, at an additional cost, or the cancellation conditions detailed in your itinerary will apply.

HEALTH & FITNESS

A minimum level of fitness is required to be able to participate on a Gippsland Travel Tour, you are required to at least:

- Be able to walk at least 2 hours on uneven surfaces without the use of any walking aid
- Walk up multiple flights of stairs and short, steep hills
- Stand for 20 minutes without needing to sit down, often in hot/humid climates
- Carry your own hand luggage / handle your own suitcase when portage is not supplied eg. at airports.
- Get on and off various modes of transport without assistance, including small boats. Assistance will be offered where necessary.

Passengers must inform us of any medical conditions which may affect your ability to participate in the tour.

At our discretion we can exclude you in a tour or in any activity if we consider that you are unable to safely participate in that tour or activity or if we consider your participation may place the safety of other guests at risk.

PASSPORT and VISA

A valid passport is required for all international travel.

If you do not hold an Australian passport, you may require a re-entry permit.

Some countries require a visa to be issued before you depart Australia.

Gippsland Travel will advise you of all passport and visa requirements for this tour.

UNUSED PORTION OF THIS TOUR

We regret refunds will not be given for any unused portions of this tour, such as meals, entry fees, accommodation or transfers.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

Occasionally circumstances beyond the control of Gippsland Travel make it necessary to change airlines, hotels or amendments to daily activities. We will inform you of any changes as soon as they occur.

GENERAL CONDUCT

Gippsland Travel reserves the right to remove a traveller from a tour if they are acting in a way that interferes with the general operation of the tour or compromises the general enjoyment of the tour by other travellers in any way.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE

Personally escorted by Jacquey Turner throughout the entire tour

Coach transfers between Gippsland and Melbourne Airport

Melbourne/Dublin, Shannon/Edinburgh, London/Melbourne

economy airfares & taxes

Airport arrival and departure transfers

Overnight accommodation at Dubai Airport Hotel

Experienced Tour Director, driver and local guides

Maximum participants of 25 in a large, private, air-conditioned coach

Hotel accommodation ranging from 5-star city hotels to private Manor houses

All service charges, gratuities to local guides and drivers, admission fees and portorage

Most hotel stays are for two or more nights

55 Meals (30 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 21 dinners) including

Welcome Dinner and Farewell Dinner

Comprehensive sightseeing included and all entry fees in each location

Sightseeing includes ●Sissinghurst Castle & Gardens ●Canterbury Cathedral

●Bodiam Castle ●Stonehenge ●Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

●Cornish villages ●Stratford Upon Avon ●Anne Hathaway's Cottage ●Holyrood House

●Edinburgh Castle ●Royal Yacht Britannia ●Scotch Whiskey Distillery

●Private presentation of Highland history and Address to a Haggis

●Culloden Battlefield site ●Loch Ness ●Eilan Donan Castle ●Book of Kells

●Guinness Storehouse ●Irish National Stud ●Waterford Crystal Centre

●Blarney Castle (& kissing the stone) ●Trinity College ●Beatles Tour

● Extensive sightseeing in London including

●Tower of London ●London Eye ●Houses of Parliament ●Westminster Abbey

●St Paul's Cathedral ●Greenwich Village ●Buckingham Palace ●and much more!

● Travel on the Kent & Sussex Railway and the Jacobite Steam Train

●Cruise on Lake Windermere ●River Thames

●National Trust Pass & London Oyster Cards

