



LITERARY BRITAIN

We invite you to join us on this Literary Britain Tour following in the footsteps of some of the greatest literary figures in our language.

Day 1: September 22nd: EDINBURGH Our tour commences this evening as we gather for pre-dinner drinks and a Welcome Dinner in our Edinburgh hotel. If you would prefer to commence your journey this morning in London, and take the modern reincarnation of the classic Flying Scotsman train to Scotland, this is possible. **[D]**

Day 2: September 23rd: EDINBURGH Our orientation tour of Edinburgh takes in the sights – the Castle, the Royal Mile, St Giles’ and the New Town. **[B]**

Day 3: September 24th: EDINBURGH Edinburgh has a long and rich literary tradition and we explore it today: home to Robert Burns, Sir Walter Scott, Robert Louis Stevenson, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, J.M. Barrie, Alexander McCall Smith, and J.K. Rowling. **[B]**

Day 4: September 25th: The LAKE DISTRICT Our luggage is taken on ahead as we take our First Class seats on British Rail across the border into England, and the Lake District. We settle in to our lakefront hotel at Bowness on Windermere. There is time this afternoon for a paddle boat ride on the lake. **[B,D]**

Day 5: September 26th: The LAKE DISTRICT Today we drive through the beautiful Lake District for a visit to Beatrix Potter’s cottage. Her genius found its fullest expression in this scenic Lakeland countryside, to which she was so committed that she bought up farms to gift to the people of Britain as a National Park. **[B]**

Day 6: September 27th: The LAKE DISTRICT The Lakes are forever linked with the Romantic Poets, who saw the countryside as an antidote for the barrenness of the Enlightenment and the revolutions it spawned. Today we “escape to Nature” following in the footsteps of the greatest of them all, William Wordsworth. Dove Cottage in Grasmere has become a sacred site for lovers of the English tongue. **[B]**

Day 7: September 28th: The LAKE DISTRICT This morning we ride the historic Settle to Carlisle Railway, across the Ribbleshead Viaduct, to Haworth, the home of the Bronte sisters. Our pilgrimage begins at the Parsonage, as we ponder how such protected single ladies, daughters of the parsonage, could gaze into the human condition like few before them or since. Back to the Lakes this evening. **[B]**

Day 8: September 29th: The COTSWOLDS Our luggage is taken on ahead and we join British Rail south to the beautiful Cotswolds. We settle into our hotel in one of the prettiest villages of England, Bourton-on-the-Water, our home for 4 nights. **[B,D]**

Day 9: September 30th: The COTSWOLDS A local slow train today as we wind through the Heart of England to the Regency spa city of Bath, rich in its Jane Austen associations. Back to our Cotswold village this evening. **[B]**

If adventures will not befall a young lady in her own village, she must seek them abroad. – Jane Austen

Day 10: October 1st: The COTSWOLDS Today, the dreaming spires of Oxford, the ancient university city, which gave us *Alice in Wonderland*, *Brideshead Revisited*, C S Lewis, J R R Tolkien, and Inspector Morse, to name a few. Back to the Cotswolds tonight **[B]**.

Day 11: October 2nd: The COTSWOLDS The Holy of Holies today: William Shakespeare’s Stratford upon Avon. We walk the streets he walked and visit his house, his school and his grave. We hope to be able to incorporate a Shakespearean play performance into our visit, but schedules are not yet available. **[B]**

Day 12: October 3rd: The SOUTH-WEST On our way to the South-West today, we visit Thomas Hardy’s imaginary Wessex, centred on the market town of Dorchester, mythical Casterbridge, whose mayor was one of the darkest characters in his literary output. **[B,D]**

Day 13: October 4th: The SOUTH-WEST From our base village on the Devon – Cornwall border, we visit the desolate landscape of both Exmoor (*Lorna Doone*) and Dartmoor (*Hound of the Baskervilles*). **[B]**

Day 14: October 5th: The SOUTH-WEST Into Cornwall to search for Daphne du Maurier today – *Frenchman’s Creek*, *Jamaica Inn*. Was Manderley, of *Rebecca* fame, really here? **[B]**

Day 15: October 6th: LONDON Through seasons of mist and mellow fruitfulness, we make our way on British Rail to London the “belly-button of the world”. We arrive at Paddington Station, as Paddington Bear did, and enjoy our London orientation tour *en route* to our hotel. **[B]**

Day 16: October 7th: LONDON Morning worship at Wesley’s Chapel? Evensong at Westminster Abbey? There is an afternoon visit to the Abbey and its Poets’ Corner. Here we do homage to the literary giants – Chaucer, Tennyson, the Brownings, Dickens, Dryden, Hardy, Blake, Kipling, A E Housman, Gerard Manley Hopkins, and an Australian poet, Adam Lindsay Gordon. **[B]**

Day 17: October 8th: LONDON We start the day visiting the British Museum and its Manuscript Room. From the exercise book in which Charlotte Bronte wrote *Jane Eyre*, to the Beatles’ doodle pads: they are all here. Nearby for afternoon visits are Bloomsbury (Virginia Wolfe), Russell Square (T.S. Eliot) and the British Library (Karl Marx.) *Every night London offers dozens of plays, musicals, ballets and opera. Up to date listings will be provided several months before the tour.* **[B]**

Day 18: October 9th: LONDON A day trip into Kent today to the cathedral city of Canterbury, and the shrine of St Thomas a’Beckett (Murder in the Cathedral - T.S. Eliot), and the destination for Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales* pilgrims. **[B]**

Day 19: October 10th: LONDON Today we explore London’s dark literary past, following in the footsteps of William Blake and Charles Dickens. **[B]**

The most important thing in life is to stop saying ‘I wish’ and to start saying ‘I will’. – Charles Dickens

Day 20: October 11th: LONDON We have barely scratched the surface of London’s rich literary heritage, but you will certainly want a day of shopping and sightseeing – Changing of the Guard? The Tower of London? Our Farewell Dinner is tonight. **[B,D]**

Day 21: October 12th: FAREWELL Your tour ends this morning after breakfast. Thank you for your company on this Great Trains of Europe Tour. Why not join us today for our Literary Ireland Tour? **[B]**

**NO SOLO TRAVELLER
SUPPLEMENT
FOR EARLYBIRD
BOOKINGS**

LITERARY IRELAND

POST-TOUR ADD-ON TO THE LITERARY BRITAIN TOUR:

Given the compactness of Ireland, and the relatively limited rail services, on this Add-on Literary Ireland Tour we undertake some travel by coach rather than rail, and some of our stops are shorter than the 3 nights customary on the Great Trains of Europe Tours.

OCT 12th DUBLIN Depart London in the early afternoon for the short flight (included in tour cost) to Dublin, and transfer to our city centre hotel. **[D]**

OCT 13th DUBLIN This morning's city sightseeing tour will wind up at Trinity College, and the Book of Kells, Ireland's greatest literary treasure, and one of the world's most beautiful illuminated manuscripts. Dating from around 800AD, it contains the Four Gospels in Latin. In the afternoon we embark upon a James Joyce *Bloomsday* Walk. **[B]**

OCT 14th DUBLIN Yes, Ireland produced George Bernard Shaw, J M Synge and Oscar Wilde, but the two literary names that particularly stand out in Dublin are James Joyce and William Butler Yeates. Today we visit the Yeates Collection in the National Library, then the James Joyce Centre and the Dublin Writers' Museum. A literary pub crawl tonight for the brave, visiting a number of watering holes frequented in centuries past by Ireland's literary greats. **[B]**

OCT 15th SLIGO An Irish Rail journey today to Sligo where we visit the William Butler Yeats Memorial Building which has a photographic exhibition detailing the famous writer's life, the churchyard at Drumcliffe where Yeats is buried – under Ben Bulbin - and the Sligo County Museum & Art Gallery which also has Yeats' work on display. **[B]**

OCT 16th LIMERICK By coach today through Western Ireland, paying a visit to Galway en route to Limerick for a 2 night stop. **[B]**

OCT 17th LIMERICK Limerick is a centre of Irish cultural life, and home to modern Irish novelist Frank McCourt, of *Angela's Ashes* fame. We visit his school room, now a museum, and take a walking tour of the locations mentioned in his novel. **[B]**

OCT 18th LIMERICK Let's be tourists today as we drive around the famed Ring of Kerry, and visit Killarney, before returning to our Limerick hotel and our Farewell Dinner. **[B,D]**

OCT 19th FAREWELL Our tour ends after breakfast this morning. You can either take the train back to Dublin to join your flight home, or fly from the nearby Shannon Airport to London for your homeward journey. Your transfer to either is included in the tour cost. **[B]**

The rich heritage of English literature is inextricably linked with the landscapes in which it is set. Could Wordsworth have written such sublime lines anywhere but in the Lake District? Could Emily Bronte have created Heathcliffe anywhere other than on the wild and desolate moors where Yorkshire meets Lancashire?

HIGHLIGHTS

- Wordsworth's Lake District
- The Brontes' Haworth
- Jane Austen's Bath
- Thomas Hardy's Wessex
- Charles Dickens' London
- Shakespeare's Stratford-upon-Avon

INCLUDED FEATURES:

- First Class rail travel in reserved seats
- 4 star city centre hotels and historic village inns
- 5 dinners
- Full luggage handling
- Full time Australian Historian Tour Director who is the Company Principal

FACT BOX:

DURATION: 21 DAYS

DEPARTURES:
September 22nd 2018

COST: Land Only Content
(Join in Edinburgh or London, leave in London).

\$AU 12,950 per person twin share
Enquire about competitive airfares

Single room supplement: \$1,500
No single room supplement for bookings
before November 30th 2017

FACT BOX:

DURATION: 8 DAYS

DEPARTURE:
OCTOBER 18th 2018

COST:

\$AU 4,950 per person twin share.
Land content only. Join tour in London,
and leave tour in either Dublin or London.

NO SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT



BOOKING CONDITIONS

Great Trains of Europe Tours (ABN 75 325 010 987) is an accredited travel agent (ATAS #12982). We are members of IATA (Licence #968366100 and the Concorde Independent Agents' Network.

Costs: All costs in this brochure are expressed in Australian dollars and are based on airfares, and land transport and accommodation costs, and Australian dollar exchange rates effective as at July 27th, 2017. Exchange rate fluctuations in the price of any service provided, beyond the control of Great Trains of Europe Tours, may be passed on to travellers, right up to the date of departure. Please note that some city taxes or bed taxes cannot be pre-paid by agents, and must be paid by the tour member at check-out.

A deposit of \$2,500 per person will guarantee a place on your chosen tour (unless already filled, in which case you will be advised of your place on the waiting list. With a maximum tour size of 25 travellers, tours often fill early).

Full final payment is due 90 days before commencement of the tour. Please make payment by cheque to "Great Trains of Europe Tours" or by bank transfer as follows: Heritage Bank, Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia. BSB 638-060 Account Number 111 097 34. Great Trains of Europe Tours currently does not accept payment by credit card.

Cancellation Policy: Cancellation at any time after the deposit is paid will result in the forfeiture of the deposit. Any booking cancelled between 90 days and 45 days before departure will incur a 50% cancellation charge on land content and up to 100% on airfares, depending on the airfare used. Bookings cancelled within 45 days of departure will incur a 100% cancellation charge. Travel insurance will cover cancellation because of illness, death in the family etc. Travel insurance is therefore considered mandatory.

Travel Insurance: A condition of joining a Great Trains of Europe tour is either the purchase of travel insurance through Great Trains of Europe Tours, or documentary evidence of a sufficient level of travel insurance purchased elsewhere.

European Rail Travel: The standard of rail travel in Europe ranges from small and basic local trains to luxury High Speed International trains. On rare occasions European rail companies may change timetables, classes of travel available or rolling stock within the period of validity of a travel brochure. Descriptions of trains & routes provided in this brochure are accurate at the time of printing and provided in good faith. It is not possible to request rail seating either facing or with back to the direction of travel. Many European trains change direction during a journey.

Baggage allowance: Porterage of one suitcase per person is included in tour cost.

Coaches: When itineraries take us away from rail routes and coaches must be used, a seating rotation system applies.

Hotels: European hotel rooms – even in 4 or 5 star hotels – are often smaller than in Australian hotels. Single rooms, particularly, can be very small. Should a traveller who has requested a single room wish to have a quote for the cost of single occupancy of a double room, please ask. Tea and coffee making facilities are rare in European hotels, as are in-room security safes. In some European countries, government environmental agencies restrict the use of air-conditioning in hotels to the summer months.

Travellers sharing a room on a twin share basis will be asked their preferences re a double bed or twin beds, but no guarantee can be given that your request will be met. Hotel star ratings, where provided, are those of the country in which the hotel is situated, and vary from country to country.

Other Important Advice: All tours will proceed if a minimum of 12 travellers have paid deposits by 90 days before scheduled departure. In the highly unlikely (unprecedented) event that there are insufficient travellers for a tour, you will be offered either (i) a full refund of all monies paid, (ii) a modified cost structure for a smaller group, or

(iii) a place on an alternative Great Trains of Europe Tour. Each tour is sold as a package and there can be no refund for any element of the tour (eg. a meal or an excursion) not utilised by the traveller by her / his own choice. Tour costs have built into them the costs associated with researching tours, communicating with overseas suppliers, brochure preparation and marketing. Great Trains of Europe Tours does not claim or imply that some of the inclusions in our tours may or may not be available at a lower price direct from the overseas supplier. Travellers are reminded, however, that purchases made direct with overseas suppliers are generally not covered by Australian Travel Agents licensing protections or the Australian Travel Compensation Fund. Most photographs used in this brochure were taken by the Tour Leader on past tours, but some have been provided by hotels, rail companies or Tourism Boards. Photographs are indicative only and we cannot guarantee that a traveller on a Great Trains of Europe tour will personally see all of the places depicted in them.

Great Trains of Europe Tours reserves the right to decline any reservation or booking request, and may at the Tour Directors discretion terminate any person's involvement in the tour due to disruptive or anti-social behaviour.

Great Trains of Europe Tours does not accept responsibility for any injury, damage, loss, delay, change of schedule or other events which are beyond our direct control such as, but not limited to war, terrorism, civil disturbance, industrial action, acts of government or of God, or mechanical failure such as aircraft, trains or coaches.

Great Trains of Europe Tours cannot be held responsible for changes to provision of services by local European suppliers, but we will do all in our power to provide an alternative service of equal standard to that advertised, or make a cash refund of the difference on the spot.

Contract: The contract between the traveller and Great Trains of Europe Tours, entered into by your signing the Booking form, shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Queensland.

"Life is a collection of experiences. Let Stan be your guide"

Noel and Alwynne Towler, Brisbane

(8 time tour members on the Great Trains of Europe Tours)



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Great Trains of Europe Tours **BOOKING FORM**

One form per person, please.

Tour Name: _____ Departure Date: _____

PASSPORT DETAILS

Full name (as in passport): _____

Address: _____

Passport No: _____ Date of Issue: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Nationality: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Ph. Home: () _____ Ph. Work: () _____

Mobile: _____ Email: _____

MEDICAL / DIET

Do you have any medical conditions or dietary requirements that we should be alerted to?

YES NO If you answered YES, please outline briefly: _____

Are you able to walk 500 metres and climb 25 stairs without assistance? YES NO

NEXT OF KIN {to be contacted in event of an emergency}

Name: _____

Ph. Home: () _____ Ph. Work: () _____ Mobile: _____

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Please provide me with travel insurance. I have a pre-existing medical condition.

{NOTE: Passengers over 75 years of age at end of a tour will need a medical clearance}

I decline your offer of travel insurance and attach documentary evidence that I have sufficient travel insurance cover.

Insurance Company _____ Policy Number _____

ACCOMMODATION

Double Twin, sharing with _____

Twin, please find someone to share with me. If no suitable room-mate can be found, the single supplement is payable.

Single Room Single occupancy of double sized room {surcharge} Non-smoking Smoking

EXTRA ACCOMMODATION

Pre-Tour in _____ {city} Date IN __/__/__ Date OUT __/__/__

Post-Tour in _____ {city} Date IN __/__/__ Date OUT __/__/__

FLIGHTS

I seek your assistance with an airfare. Please contact me. or I will make my own flight arrangements.

PAYMENT METHOD

I enclose a cheque, payable to "Great Trains of Europe Tours" for \$ _____ or

I have deposited \$ _____ in the "Great Trains of Europe Tours" account at Heritage Bank, 400 Ruthven St, Toowoomba, Qld., 4350, Australia as follows.

BSB 638 – 060 Account Number 11109734 Swiftcode HBSLAU4T, and I attach a pay-in slip as evidence.

By signing this form I declare that I have read the Tour Terms and Conditions, understand them, and agree to abide by them.

Signature _____ Date _____



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