

# THE TOWER OF LONDON to CORONATION STREET

with Special Private Visit to the Sets of CORONATION STREET

September 24<sup>th</sup>- October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 ( 12days)

London - Windsor - Stratford-Upon-Avon  
York – Lake District - Manchester

*After each day's itinerary your tour manager will advise the time and place to meet for the next day's departure. As a general rule, breakfast is planned for 7:30AM and dinner is planned for 7:30PM on most days. You will be advised daily of any changes.*



## Sept 24th, Sun: WELCOME TO LONDON

Plan your flights to arrive in London by early afternoon on Sept 24th. Make your way to our London Hotel ( which will be advised closer to departure) You will meet your fellow travellers, your **Coronation Travel Tour Host Neville MacKay** and our **Tour Manager Marilyn Parker** at a **welcome reception in the hotel at 5PM**. Neville and/or Marilyn will be available in the hotel lobby from 4:30PM-4:45PM to greet you and give you directions to the reception. Your tour name badge will be given to you at the reception. Please do try and wear it throughout the tour, as it helps our tour manager to keep track of everyone along the way ! Neville and Marilyn will be with us throughout the tour, and it won't take you very long to get to know and enjoy their personalities and professionalism.

We suggest spending some time after you arrive in London getting acquainted with this bustling city which will be your home for the next 3 nights. Please don't go for a nap, as you will then be up half the night and be tired the next day. Plan to do a bit of browsing, have a bite of lunch, and an early supper, and you should be right as rain the next morning ! The hotel will keep your luggage in the secure luggage area for you until your room is ready, and will be very happy to assist you with maps and directions to some local sites close to the hotel. Some rooms may be ready a bit earlier, but please don't expect to be able to check in much before 2PM. As you no doubt will want to crawl into bed early tonight, no group dinner is planned, but please don't miss the reception at 5PM ! (B)

## Day 02

Sept 25, Mon: LONDON

After a hearty full English breakfast at our hotel, we get an early start for a **full day of London sightseeing with our expert London guide** including all the main sites like the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben along the River Thames, Buckingham Palace (and if we're lucky see the Changing of the Guard). Our tour today includes entrance to the **Tower of London**, with its magnificent Crown Jewels, **Westminster Abbey**, *the 1000 year old gothic coronation church, a treasure house of paintings and stained glass, and housing the monuments and tombs of Britain's legendary kings and queens alongside many famous men and women whose stories are etched into the history of Britain,* and **St. Paul's Cathedral**, *London's leading church, designed by the architect Sir Christopher Wren and whose construction was overseen by 5 monarchs determined that the cathedral be as beautiful and imposing as their private palaces. Many important events and celebrations have taken place at St. Paul's including the funeral of Winston Churchill, the Jubilee Celebrations for Queen Victoria, peace services marking the end of the first and second world wars, and of course the wedding of Charles, Prince of Wales to Lady Diana Spencer.* We have a lot of ground to cover today to ensure you get to see as much as possible. Time will be allowed at each stop to take photos and purchase some souvenirs.

This evening join *Tour Host Neville* and *Tour Manager Marilyn* in the hotel dining room for our first group dinner together. You won't want to miss it, as you never know what treats and entertainment Neville has up his sleeve! (B,SD)

## Day 3

Sept 26th, Tue: LONDON

After a sumptuous full breakfast you have the day entirely free to explore on your own. Perhaps you will opt for a day in fashionable Soho or a trip to Harrods. A bird's eye view from The London Eye, a trip to famous Madame Tussaud's, a leisurely day in Covent Garden, or a narrated lunch cruise on the River Thames are all excellent ways to enjoy your day. A day trip to the Cotswolds, or Stonehenge and Bath may be your pleasure. Or possibly to Greenwich – home of Greenwich Mean Time and the Meridian Line. Visit the National Maritime Museum here and The Royal Observatory, and Christopher Wren's Old Royal Naval College. Please see the OPTIONAL TOURS section at the end of this brochure and complete the booking form for the tour you are interested in. Perhaps the theatre this evening. Please let us know and we will be happy to send you a current list of available shows and their prices a little closer to departure. Some of the long running popular London shows include Les Miserables, The Lion King, Mousetrap, Mamma Mia, The Phantom of the Opera, Jersey Boys, and the Beatles tribute... Let It Be. Expect to pay in the \$100-\$125 per person range for decent tickets. In order to make sure we do not infringe upon YOUR day in London, dinner this evening will be on your own. (B)

## Day 04

### Sept 27th,Wed: LONDON - WINDSOR – STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

After breakfast at the hotel, we bid farewell to London town this morning and head off on a short drive to Windsor, where we will visit **Windsor Castle** , Queen Elizabeth's



preferred weekend home.

After our visit to the castle, we will have some time in Windsor to poke around in the shops, and have a bite to eat for lunch before heading off later afternoon to Shakespeare's Stratford-Upon-Avon.

We check in to our hotel in Stratford-Upon-Avon for the night and enjoy a lovely dinner together in our hotel. ( B,D)

## Day 05

### Sep 28,Thu: STRATFORD-UPON-AVON



This morning after breakfast at our hotel, we will enjoy an **introductory sight-seeing tour of Shakespeare's town**. After our morning coach tour, you will have the opportunity to decide how you wish to spend the rest of your day. Stratford-Upon-Avon is very picturesque, and you might choose to spend a leisurely afternoon watching the swans on the River Avon and the many narrowboats as they make their way through several locks- (a popular way to vacation along the intricate canals.) Perhaps you will want to visit Anne Hathaway's cottage , or the Butterfly Farm ( the largest in Europe) or row your sweetheart along the River Avon in a hired boat. This evening would be a perfect time to **take in a play at the Royal Shakespeare or Swan Theatre**. Popular plays include Hamlet, A Winter's Tale, As You Like It, MacBeth, A Midsummer's Night Dream, and many others. By June/July 2017 we will be able to advise you what will be playing, and assist with ticket information. As many will probably opt for the theatre this evening, dinner will be on your own. ( B)

## Day 6

### Sep 29, Fri: STRATFORD-UPON-AVON – YORK

After breakfast in our hotel this morning, we travel approximately 200km north to York. This afternoon we will visit York Minster and the Jorvik Viking Centre before checking in to our hotel in York. Dinner will be enjoyed together in our hotel. (B,D)

*The minster is the 2nd largest gothic cathedral in Europe and its construction took an astonishing 250 years. The minster also has its own police force, the only other cathedral in the world which can boast this is St. Peter's in Rome which has the Swiss Guards. York's first Minster was built for the baptism of Anglo Saxon King Edwin of Northumbria in 627. The original church was a small wooden construction that had been built for the baptism and was later rebuilt in stone on Edwin's orders.*

**THE WORLD FAMOUS JORVIK VIKING CENTRE IS A 'MUST-SEE' FOR VISITORS TO THE CITY OF YORK AND IS ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR VISITOR ATTRACTIONS IN THE UK.** At JORVIK Viking Centre you will be standing on the site of one of the most famous and astounding discoveries of modern archaeology. Between the years 1976-81 archaeologists from York Archaeological Trust revealed the houses, workshops and backyards of the Viking-Age city of Jorvik as it stood nearly 1,000 years ago. These incredible discoveries enabled the building of the JORVIK Viking Centre on the very site where the excavations had taken place, creating a groundbreaking visitor experience that enables you to experience life in Viking-Age York. The remains of 1,000 year old houses are revealed beneath your feet, objects taken from the excavations are explored and Viking-age timbers are brought before your eyes. New audio and video displays help you to investigate all of the information gathered from the 5-year long dig at Coppergate and piece together the puzzle of where the Vikings came from, why they came here and how they lived and died.

## Day 7

### Sep 30, Sat: YORK

Today is free for you to explore the delights of this walled city on your own. There is so much to see and do in York while we are there, we have purposely not included dinner, as the annual York Food Festival will be happening and you won't want to miss it ! York's economy was once largely driven by the railways and the chocolate industry and indeed today you may still smell cocoa in the air when walking around the city's streets. ( B)

*York was named the most haunted city in Europe by the Ghost Research Foundation International (GRFI), the first recorded ghost walks began here in the early 1970's and still run a busy trade today. For every room, building or street seems to be haunted in this bustling, beautiful city, there are apparently 140 ghosts haunting York, with an astounding 504 recorded hauntings. York is apparently haunted by a lost Roman Legion. Harry Martindale, an apprentice plumber was installing a heating system in the cellars of the old Treasurer's House in 1953, and reported seeing the 2000-year old ghosts. He first heard a horn in the distance, and then a disheveled Roman soldier on a horse emerged from the brick wall, followed by a few hundred others, all carrying swords and spears. He reported that that the ghosts appeared to be walking on their knees. This is an interesting observation since the old Roman road is located fifteen inches below the cellar and it is believed that Martindale wasn't aware of this when questioned. So the ghosts would have been walking on their own familiar road, on their way to the Minster. There have been numerous other sightings since Martindales' but sadly, the old cellars are now closed to visitors.*

Plan to take in **The Original Ghost Walk of York**. It leaves every night at 8PM from the King's Arm Pub–Ouse Bridge. The famous pub that floods ! No need to book ahead, just show up. Adult £5, Seniors & children ('boils' and 'ghouls') £3.



No visit to York would be complete without joining one of these ghost hunts that explore the city's spookiest corners every evening (whatever the weather). Dressed in Victorian garb, knowledgeable guides lead unwitting groups from the meeting point at the Shambles, through dark, narrow alleyways to eerie ancient houses, all the while recounting spine-chilling tales of murder, mystery, intrigue and scandal. The tours last approximately 1hr 10min, and are wheelchair friendly. Tales are drawn from the immense history of York and are told against a backdrop of haunting beauty. Walk in the footsteps of those who have passed before !



We highly recommend you check out "The Shambles" ... *The Shambles is where ancient butchers used to ply their trade. The upper storeys of the fifteenth century houses lean inwards so far that the roofs on either side almost touch. Walking this street, you will notice raised pavements either side of the main cobbled road which form the channel through which the butchers would wash away offal and blood. York is steeped in medieval history, the battlement walls and bars (gates) to the city were built during this period and are still greatly preserved today. Clifford's Tower is a popular tourist haunt these days but has a grisly past, getting its name from Roger de Clifford who was hung using chains from its battlements after the Battle of Boroughbridge in 1322.*

**For our "foodie" guests, we will fortunately be in York during the annual York Food Festival.** *The largest food festival in the UK. It runs from **September 22<sup>nd</sup>-October 1<sup>st</sup> 2017**. Some of the highlights of recent festivals included:*

**Young Chefs Competition** – The Young Chefs Competition allows young food enthusiasts to show off their cooking skills and one is ultimately awarded the accolade of Young Chef of the Year.

**Evening Programme** – In 2010, York Food Festival launched its evening programme. The aim was to attract people to stay in Parliament Street after 5pm in a vibrant and entertaining setting. Evenings including live music, theatre performances and cat walk fashion shows have previously taken place.

**Ale Trail** – The ale trail first started in 2003, and celebrated York's real ale and beer. Since then, it has grown to include more pubs and is still going strong. York has more than 360 pubs !

**Dine At My Table** – Dine At My Table was launched by York Food Festival in 2011 and has been popular ever since. It gives local chefs/supper clubs/cookery enthusiasts the chance to host an intimate dinner party, with a set menu, for up to eight people.

**Taste Trail** – The Taste Trail began in 2012 and aims to provide visitors with an all round experience of Food in York. Around 20 different restaurants/delis/cafes take part so that visitors can sample the delights of York's food.

For more information on the York Food Festival check out this site :

<http://www.yorkfoodfestival.com/about-us.php>, and <http://www.yorkfoodfestival.com/quickguide.php>

## Day 8

**Oct 1, Sun: YORK – The LAKE DISTRICT**



After a busy couple of days in York, we leave this historic and enchanting city after breakfast, and head to what is known as England's most beautiful region - The Lake District. A popular vacation destination, it's known for its glacial ribbon lakes, rugged fell mountains and historic literary associations. It's easy to see how this region inspired William Wordsworth and Beatrix Potter.

*Beatrix Potter was born in London in 1866, but later lived solely in the Lake District. She had a lonely childhood, educated at home and barely had any contact with people other than her family. Potter loved animals from an early age and had various pets that she made drawings of. Her parents rented Wray Castle near Ambleside and this is where Potter fell in love with the Lake District. As an adult, she lived most of her life in the Lake District, which inspired her to write her books, in particular *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*. She also painted and sketched the Lake District's landscapes. After her death in 1943, she left her 14 farms and 4000 acres of land to the National Trust, on the proviso that her favourite home, Hill Top at Sawrey, was opened to the public and left unchanged.*

*William Wordsworth was born on 7 April 1770 at Cockermouth in Cumbria. His father was a lawyer. Both Wordsworth's parents died before he was 15, and he and his four siblings were left in the care of different relatives. As a young man, Wordsworth developed a love of nature, a theme reflected in many of his poems. In 1799, after a visit to Germany with poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Wordsworth and his sister Dorothy settled at Dove Cottage in Grasmere in the Lake District. Coleridge lived nearby with his family. Wordsworth's most famous poem, 'I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud' was written at Dove Cottage in 1804.*

**The Lake District, Cumbria, is a region of incredible beauty famous for its stunning scenery, abundant wildlife and cultural heritage. The area is made up of ancient woodlands and forest, river valleys, lakes, mountains and simply stunning coastlines. Keep your eyes peeled and cameras at the ready for some serious wildlife spotting.**

We will enjoy a boat cruise on beautiful Lake Windermere this afternoon, before checking in to our lovely hotel for the evening and dinner together. ( B,D)

## Day 9

**Oct. 2, Mon: WINDERMERE – THE LAKE DISTRICT**

Our day begins after breakfast at our hotel when we head off on a very picturesque and delightful tour of the Lake District. Today we will visit several of the lovely towns and villages in the Lake District. One of the highlights of today's excursion will be a visit to Beatrix Potter's cottage. The entire region is a masterpiece of stunning landscapes and vistas, and home to some amazing birds, so make sure you bring your cameras. Our dinner will be back at our hotel this evening. ( B,D)

## Day 10

### Oct 03, Tue: LAKE DISTRICT- MANCHESTER

We leave this beautiful region right after breakfast this morning, and head to our next home for the last two days, Manchester. A short sightseeing tour of the city this afternoon will give you a glimpse of this vibrant northern England city where many of our favourite Coronation Street actors live, and of course work. We will meet up with our Corrie specialist Mark, at his beautiful nursery and gift shop. Mark used to be the manager for Roy Barraclough “our Alec Gilroy” years ago, and has become somewhat of a legend when it comes to inside knowledge on Coronation Street, and especially many of the locations around town that were used in filming off set episodes. Keep your ears peeled as Mark gives us lots of Corrie tidbits during our visit with him. This afternoon, you will have some free time to explore on your own. Perhaps check out Fiz’s restaurant “Annie’s” for tea and biscuits, or do some shopping at the Trafford Shopping Centre. You might choose to take a trip up Canal Street with Neville this evening. He usually volunteers to take a group of interested folks along to this vibrant part of Manchester’s nightlife ! ( B,D)

## Day 11

### Oct.4, Wed: MANCHESTER – The Grand Finale!

Today we immerse ourselves into **CORONATION STREET** as we visit the inside and outside sets of Coronation Street at Media City in Salford Quays. ( Media City is also the new headquarters for the BBC.)Marilyn will let you know the evening before what time we will be going to the studios. It has traditionally been set for 1PM, however it is always dependent upon their filming schedule, and they may have to schedule a morning visit. But not to worry, you will be there on this day!

Coronation Street began broadcasting on December 9, 1960 and is the longest running “soap opera” in the world. We visit both the inside and outside sets of “the street”, and will hopefully be able to see actual filming (depending on the day’s schedule) As Granada /ITV does not know what will be taking place until approximately two weeks in advance, we can never guarantee, but our past five tours were thrilled to have been present on the set during filming and had the opportunity to meet many of the current actors, and pose for some photos and a brief chat. **“Gobsmacked”** usually describes the emotions of our guests on this day, fulfilling the dream of die-hard Coronation St. fans!

You will have some free time today either before or after our studios visit to relax and take in the rest of Manchester, pick up some last minute souvenirs, and spend some last hours with your new friends. This evening we will have our farewell dinner at the hotel.

Before you turn in for the night make sure you pack your bags. Please let Marilyn and Neville know your plans for the morning and if you would like to share a taxi with someone else going to the airport or train station later the following morning. One early

morning coach transfer will be made to the Manchester airport for anyone wishing to avail of it. (B,SD)

## Day 12

### Oct 5, Tue: **MANCHESTER – CANADA or Continue With Your Own Itinerary**

Breakfast will be available early this morning at the hotel before you set off on your own or head to the airport to begin your flight home. Please make sure you book your return airfare from Manchester to your destination city. Whatever your plans, we know you will come away from this tour having seen a great deal, with many new friends, and will be able to say that you walked the brand new “Coronation Street Cobbles”, were in Audrey’s Salon, touched the actual Underworld machines and leaned over the bar at the Rovers Return...and every time you watch the show you will be reminded that **YOU WERE THERE !!!** (B)

*Please note some alterations in dates or times and itinerary changes may have to be made due to traffic or road conditions, flight delays, weather and /or circumstances beyond our control. While Granada/ITV Studios has scheduled our Coronation Street visit for October 6<sup>th</sup>2014, slight modifications may have to be made in the itinerary at the request of Granada/ITV studios should they have circumstances occur which will not permit our visit at the time scheduled. In the eight year history of this tour, that has never occurred, and we will endeavour to adhere to the itinerary as presented. Coronation Travel and its travel partners, hosts and managers, Special Travel International , and Granada Studios/ITV will not be liable for any necessary changes resulting from any of the above circumstances.*

#### **INCLUDED:**

- **Arrival meet and greet cocktail reception September 24th**
- **Accommodation in good Tourist Class hotels**
- **Modern, washroom equipped private touring coach throughout**
- **English speaking tour manager and guides throughout**
- **English speaking Coronation Travel tour host**
- **Full Breakfast every day and Dinners according to itinerary**
- **City Tours and entrance fees to sights visited are underlined**
- **Special Coronation Street visit**
- **Porterage of 1 bag on the coach and in the hotels**
- **One group Departure transfer from Manchester hotel to Manchester airport**

#### **NOT INCLUDED:**

- **Airfare Canada-London, Manchester-Canada**
- **Departure taxes on any airfare**
- **Insurance**
- **Lunches and Dinners not mentioned**
- **Souvenirs and items of a personal nature**
- **Tips and gratuities to tour manager, guides and drivers**
- **Arrival transfers from airport to London hotel**

#### **LEGEND**

**B – Full Breakfast**

**D- Full Evening Dinner**

**SD- Special Evening Dinner**