

## Trip to Northern England and North Wales September 29 through October 11, 2018

November 2017 Newsletter

Hylo, croeso, Sut ydych, chi? This is Welsh for hello, welcome and how are you?

We apologize for the late newsletter; we wanted to send our first newsletter out with as much news as possible, including reservations. WOW! The places we're staying are totally awesome.

The total price for the trip is \$3,200 per person and that includes all hotel accommodations with full English breakfast, your first and last evening dinners, our deluxe coach with driver, all sorts of tickets and passes to places we'll be visiting; a railway trip to the top of Mount Snowdon in Wales and all gratuities. You will need to make and pay for your own flight arrangements; some of you may have frequent flyer miles to use; others want to shop around for the best prices. We'll help anyone who needs assistance with flight details.

Our flight will arrive in Manchester, England on Sunday, September 30th and as usual, our coach will be at the airport waiting for us then we'll be on our way. Our first stop will be the beautiful ancient Roman city of York; it's not so far, only about 75 miles from Manchester, so we'll have lots of time to get out and do some exploring that first day. Being Sunday, you may want to attend the evening service at York Minister Cathedral, closer to date; we'll get times to you.

York is a neat place to visit; there are outside markets with paintings, food, and just about everything you can imagine. We will be staying at an exceptional hotel in downtown York, close to the magnificent cathedral that dominates the skyline of the city. It's called The Judges Lodging; you'll want to Google this site to get an idea of this place: [www.thwaits.co.uk/Judges-Lodging](http://www.thwaits.co.uk/Judges-Lodging), click on "gallery" to get a glimpse of this beautiful hotel.

One of Beth's favorite places in York is the "Shambles". It's a quirky place for pedestrians only. Hard to describe the Shambles; one interesting thing about them is that as you are walking down the sidewalk, you will notice that the tops of the buildings either side of this tiny street, seem to lean forward to each other; it's said that a person could reach out and shake hands with another person across the street. There are candy shops, restaurants, clothing shops, outdoor markets and very interesting people here. You'll hear many languages spoken and don't be surprised to see people dressed in the costumes of their countries. You'll want to keep a busy pace, especially on our first day in the UK; then you can go to bed and sleep the night away. We'll be in York for two nights.

Completely over our jet lag, we leave York on Tuesday morning, October 3rd, traveling north to Thirsk, James Herriot country. We'll take a couple of hours to get out and see what there is to see there and then continue on to Leyburn, another special little market town in the middle of the north Yorkshire Dales. We'll have a bite of lunch here; likely in a pub and you'll want to check out the menu for fish 'n chips or seafood caught that morning. Then, back to the coach, driving a short distance to Hawes for a visit to the Wensleydale Cheese Factory; they have about 20 varieties of cheese to try and buy if you'd like. There's a nice restaurant here; a good place to buy a slice of pie or cake and have a cuppa tea or coffee. The day's journey will end at the Falcon Manor Hotel in East Yorkshire. For a close look at our home for the night; Google this website, [www.falconmanor.co.uk](http://www.falconmanor.co.uk).

Wednesday morning, October 3rd our journey takes us north along the M-6 Motorway to Carlisle, but before we arrive there; we'll stop at Hadrian's Wall, a World Heritage Site that is at least 2,000 years old and stretches about 73 miles from the west coast to the east coast of northern England. It was constructed by Roman soldiers "to keep the savages from Scotland out"....by the way, the Scots didn't want the Romans in Scotland either! Bad blood between the two very different people! The wall is a fascinating construction that had a fort built every 5 miles and a Garrison of 30,000 Roman soldiers patrolled its entire length.

Carlisle was originally a Roman settlement and often used as a staging point for various English armies that invaded Scotland. The castle was built in the late 11th century and at one time, was used as a prison for Mary, Queen of Scots. In the 1100's a priory was built which ended up being Carlisle

Cathedral, not as awesome as York Minster, but still is very beautiful with 14th century stained glass windows along with medieval paintings along both aisles.

We leave Carlisle, traveling west into one of the most picturesque places in the United Kingdom; the Lake District. We'll stop briefly in Keswick, a very old market town; a good place to do some window shopping. If we happen to catch the "open air" market open, it is a great place to find some interesting things. This type of outside market has been in place for hundreds of years all over the UK. You may see geese, chickens and rabbits hanging, all types of cheese, fresh fish and clothing.

Now on to our lodgings for a couple of nights; Skelwith Bridge Hotel. You'll find it on Google at [www.skelwithbridgehotel.co.uk](http://www.skelwithbridgehotel.co.uk). The website says it is "your home away from home" and it is just west of Ambleside in the heart of the Lake District; a very pretty setting by the side of the river.

During our two days in the Lake District, we'll be enjoying great scenery and local hospitality. This is Beatrix Potter country and also the home of William Wordsworth, the poet. We'll visit Beatrix's home and no doubt will meet Peter Rabbit along with his friends. Her home is near the town of Windermere, a few miles south of Skelwith Bridge. So much to see here including the beautiful lakes of the district. A nice walk along the shore of one of the lakes will give you some room to have a slice of delicious lemon cake with cream icing and a cuppa tea. Or, you might have fresh raspberries over iced cream and cake, or....you get the idea.

The morning of October 4th, we will leave Skelwith Bridge, heading for the ancient city of Chester which is a couple of hours drive to the south. Chester is also an ancient Roman city; you can see the Roman ruins while we're there. Our abode is the Mill Hotel, at Google, [www.millhotel.com](http://www.millhotel.com)

They have a wonderful Spa...you might want to bring along a swimsuit. By the way, several of our hotels have swimming pools and our hotel in Chester offers lunch and evening meals on their long boat; might be a fun thing to do for one evening.

We recommend you Google Chester, it's an exciting city with lots to see and do; there is a majestic old Cathedral here, and in the grounds, an interesting falconry with daily demonstrations of the birds and their behaviors. Chester is a great place for shopping and fine dining, all sorts of pubs and cosmopolitan restaurants. A visit to Grosvenor Museum is very interesting too; there's displays of Roman artifacts and other things you'll want to see. The entire city is enclosed within a wall that you can walk on and stop to check out various places along the way.

Time for a change of scenery and a drive to North Wales where we'll be for the next three nights. It is about a two hour drive to the royal town of Caernarfon. King Edward I built over 12 magnificent castles all along the northern coast of Wales, we'll stop to look at a couple of them.

In Caernarfon that we will be staying at the most exciting place in all of Wales--"The Black Boy Inn", it's the oldest pub in all of Wales, take a look at Google, [www.black-boy-inn.com](http://www.black-boy-inn.com) it is 600 years old, has old oak beams, and is located inside the old walls of a great castle

This part of the trip is very special; activities that will keep you busy and out in the beautiful countryside. The scenery alone is most beautiful. We will spend a day touring Anglesey (in Welsh it's called Ynys Mon) an island off the northwest coast of Wales. There are many burial mounds and Roman sites. One evening we will listen to the Caernarfon Male Voice Choir.

Our last couple of days will be spent touring North Wales and traveling back to Manchester ready to fly home.

We hope you will join us for this unusual and very different tour of a part of the United Kingdom; much of it off the proverbial beaten path. Please make your reservation by sending a \$500 deposit for each person to secure your place. We have twelve people who will be joining us and have ten places yet to fill. So, if this is your kind of trip, please let us know ASAP. The address to send your deposit is:

Ken and Beth Bristow, 212 Raintree, Nixa, Missouri 65714;  
Email: [rmopiper@hotmail.com](mailto:rmopiper@hotmail.com), Phone 417-714-9476