



City & Village Tours

Day Trips & SleepOvers



2019

for groups who like to see a lot without walking too far

For groups who like to see a lot without walking too far

From beautifully crafted day trips in the company of top-notch Blue Badge Guides to **SleepOvers** and short break holidays in the UK. And now West End Theatre packages where you don't have to fork out for tickets until a month before the show. Plus our own fun Matinee entertainments including weekly Cockney Matinees and Strictly Tea Dances. This is a little taster of our world. To see everything we do please ask for a copy of The Big Book of Trips.

Find Out More...

To see the full range of day trips
You need The Big Book of Trips 2019
Call **0208 692 1133**
Email info@cityandvillagetours.com
Or visit www.cityandvillagetours.com



**100%
Refundable
Deposits**

**100%
Blue Badge
Guides**

**100%
ABTA approved
Passenger Payment
Protection**

**100%
Reliable**





17
awards
2004-2018

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		Find Out More...	This book is just a sample of what's on offer Please call 0208 692 1133 and ask for a copy of The Big Book of Trips 2019



Attention
to detail

The Best
Qualified
Guides

Trail
Blazing
ideas

30 Years'
experience



Award
winning

The EXPERTS

*in what you're going to do
when you get there*

There is, quite simply, no other company in the UK with a 30-year history of organising coach based guided Day Trips.

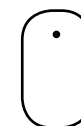
You book the coach and we do the rest.

We created the template for a whole new way of working with groups to deliver quality day trips and, for the past three years, we've been bringing fresh ideas to the UK group holidays market.

A City & Village Tours **SleepOver** is much more than just entrance tickets and a bed. As the multi award winning experts in what you are going to do when you get there, we design the itinerary first and then look for the right hotel for your group.

It's an holistic approach that brings together great ideas, excellent tour guides and interesting and well run hotels.

And you get to choose the coach company and driver.



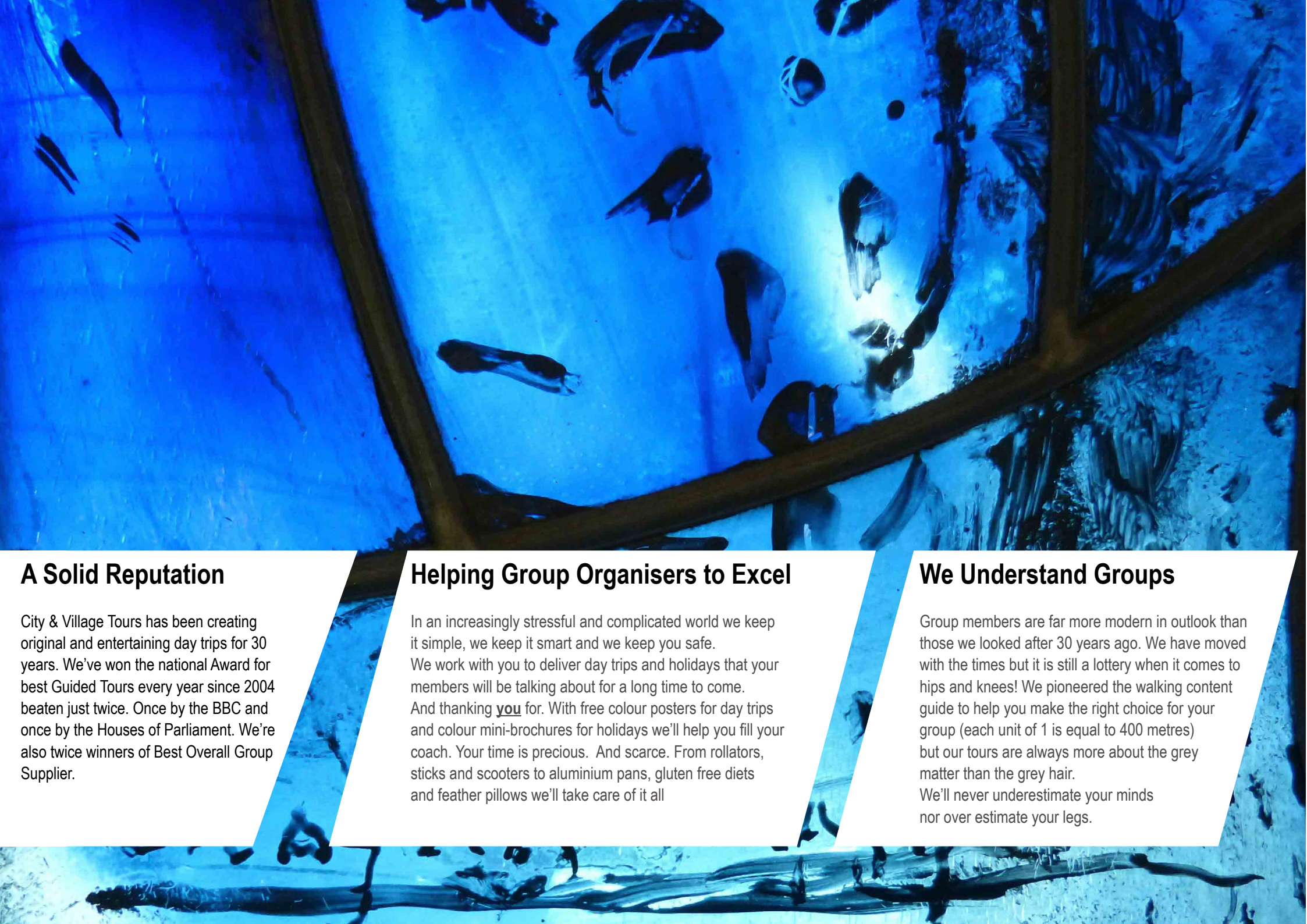
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A Solid Reputation

City & Village Tours has been creating original and entertaining day trips for 30 years. We've won the national Award for best Guided Tours every year since 2004 beaten just twice. Once by the BBC and once by the Houses of Parliament. We're also twice winners of Best Overall Group Supplier.

Helping Group Organisers to Excel

In an increasingly stressful and complicated world we keep it simple, we keep it smart and we keep you safe. We work with you to deliver day trips and holidays that your members will be talking about for a long time to come. And thanking **you** for. With free colour posters for day trips and colour mini-brochures for holidays we'll help you fill your coach. Your time is precious. And scarce. From rollators, sticks and scooters to aluminium pans, gluten free diets and feather pillows we'll take care of it all

We Understand Groups

Group members are far more modern in outlook than those we looked after 30 years ago. We have moved with the times but it is still a lottery when it comes to hips and knees! We pioneered the walking content guide to help you make the right choice for your group (each unit of 1 is equal to 400 metres) but our tours are always more about the grey matter than the grey hair. We'll never underestimate your minds nor over estimate your legs.



Protecting Members' Money

Refundable deposits mean that you don't have to risk a penny of your members' money. For day trips we make generous refunds for people unable to attend and on all of our holidays we offer 100% ABTA approved Passenger Payment Protection in full compliance with the Package Travel Regulations.

Peace of Mind

It all adds up to the peace of mind you deserve when you take on a big job for your group. We even include free Group Travel Organiser Liability Insurance on all **SleepOvers** and holidays because there's nowt so queer as folk!

The Big Book of Day Trips

Send now for The Big Book of Trips. Back by popular demand it is 100 pages of Day Trips, **SleepOvers**, Matinee entertainments and more. From Devon to the Borders there's always something within reach for your group and if not - you can always **SleepOver**.

Call us now on 0208 692 1133



How Our Day Trips Work

The Nitty Gritty

- Minimum group size is 30 people
- The 40th place is a free place
- A deposit of £25 secures booking
- We take cheques, debit cards & BACS
- We issue a written confirmation
- Deposits are 100% refundable on cancellation
- Full payment deadlines vary from 7 to 30 days
- You book and pay for your own coach
- We tell your coach driver needs to know
- We refund for no shows wherever possible

See our full terms in The Big Book of Trips

Call 0208 692 1133 for your copy



The DAY TRIP Range

People join groups because they like being part of a group. If your members sign up for a group day out it's because they enjoy the company of others so it's important to choose a day out that makes the most of time spent together. Sounds rather obvious doesn't it but it is something that can so easily be overlooked when planning days out. An entrance ticket packaged up with lunch at a chain restaurant doesn't make sure that your less able members are comfortable. Simple ticket resell packages do not ensure that your singletons are part of the group. The best days out have a master of ceremonies to form the nucleus of a true group event bringing everyone together for a shared experience that your members will talk about for a long time to come.

That's the difference with a City & Village Tours day. Entertaining and erudite (our team utterly refuse to be boring!), our top-notch Blue Badge Guides do much more than explain what you see. They move your folk along from one interesting thing to the next and they do it with such kindness and efficiency that even you, as the Group Organiser, can sit back, and relax and enjoy the day.

We have an unparalleled thirty years of experience to know what works and what doesn't. We don't just accept all ideas that come our way and put them out there to test out on your group. You are not the guinea pig. All of our multi-award winning days out are subject to a quality control born of that three decades of experience.

Oh and in case you've been put off in the past by an unfortunate guiding experience, do know that our Blue Badge Guides also know when to pipe down. They know a lot about what they are going to show you but they aren't going to tell you everything they know! When they do speak you can hear them clearly and they are so interesting and well informed you'll really want to listen.



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Pomp & Ceremony

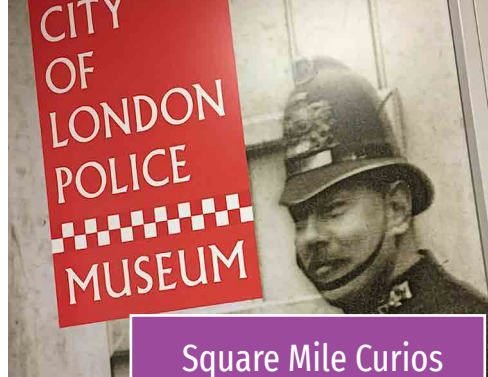
Blue Badge Guide Martin served in the Scots Guards taking part in the Changing of the Guard, Trooping the Colour as well as royal weddings and state visits. Sean, Owen and Sarah are experts in all matters state and ceremonial.

You'll meet the guide in Trafalgar Square at 10.30am for morning coffee (included) before attending The Changing of the Queen's Life Guards, a little-known spectacle of immaculately groomed horses in scarlet and gold that takes place every day whatever the weather.

As the guards disappear into the stables we step into the Household Cavalry Museum and watch as the troopers unsaddle their gear. Learn how to polish your boots and groom your bearskin and enjoy a fun dressing up session (now including an officer's frock coat like the one Harry married in) among some rare and beautiful treasures. Profits from this museum support our soldiers and their families.

Following a break on Whitehall to buy lunch (or a picnic in the park) we continue by coach for a trip down memory lane to enjoy a series of London Postcards – scenes of tourist London your folk probably haven't been back to since childhood. We visit the remarkable and little known Queen's Chapel of the Savoy a survivor, from Tudor times where the congregation sing *Long Live our Noble Duke*. Time to buy tea locally before heading home at 4.30pm.

Adults: £26 Seniors: £25
Available Mon-Thur except Aug & Sept



Square Mile Curios

This brilliant new tour has already received rave reviews. In the heart of the City of London, the old Square Mile, we meet to buy morning coffee at 10.30am. We are off the coach all day for a series of short and flat walks with the Blue Badge Guide including opportunities to sit down. We visit:

The London Mithraeum – an ancient Roman temple restored its original site, now in the basement of the multi-billion pound Norman Foster designed Bloomberg building. With haze and light projections the temple rises from the ruins with an atmospheric soundscape of chanting, bells and horns. There's also a display of very recent archaeological finds.

Guildhall Art Gallery – little known venue with impressive art plus the Roman Amphitheatre

The City of London Police Museum – marvel at a Suffragette bomb in a mustard tin, peek inside a police cell from 1888 where a hologrammatic Catherine Eddowes is banged up for drunkenness. Just hours later she will become a victim of Jack the Ripper.

We end with the extraordinary interior of the best kept of all the Wren Churches where we sit in the pews to enjoy tea & biscuits (included). There will be free time to buy lunch on Cheapside by Bow Bells. The tour is available Tues-Friday all year with an option to include morning coffee and lunch on Tues & Weds.

Adults & Seniors: £20
Add morning coffee & lunch for £13.50pp



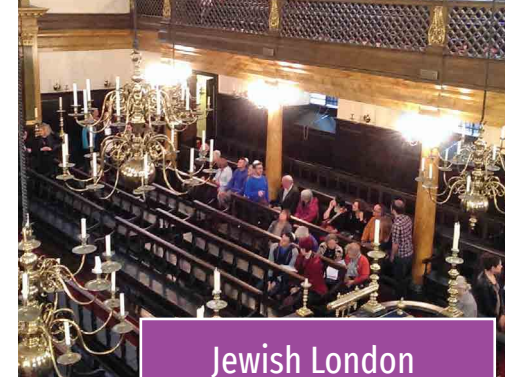
The People's Post

The very British story of posting a letter from Roman times to the coming of the GPO with a guided tour and a visit to the Postal Museum and a ride on Mail Rail – the miniature underground railway which once whizzed four million letters a day beneath the streets of London. We meet at the epicentre of Post Office London at 10.30am for morning refreshments (included). The morning guided tour shows how the ingenuity of the postal service shaped the world we live in today. There's free time for lunch in Exmouth Market where, in addition to traditional pubs and cafés, a street food market has continental style pavement tables.

In the afternoon we visit the Postal Museum – five centuries of world class curiosities from the sculpture of the Queen used for 220 billion stamps to the iconic Night Mail film with Betjeman's poetic narrative and a 20-minute tootle on Mail Rail. There's a café on site to buy refreshments before heading home at 4.45pm.

The Jam Buster option starts at the Museum of London to buy a light lunch at midday, includes the full guided tour and the visit to the Post Office Museum with Mail Rail ride. At 5.30pm as the rush hour kicks off you disappear into a nearby restaurant for the best fish & chips in town with a hot drink, before heading home at 6.30pm on emptier roads. Available weekdays.

Adults & Seniors: £32
Jam Buster Option £39



Jewish London

Jewish people came to London during Roman times and have been part of capital's story for 2000 years. We trace the story of Jewish presence in the City and East End visiting the UK's oldest synagogue and the Jewish Museum.

Meet the guide at 10.30am at St Lawrence Jewry in the City for morning coffee, (included). A short coach tour takes us to Bevis Marks - our oldest and most splendid synagogue built when Sir Christopher Wren was building his city churches nearby. It was built inside a courtyard because synagogues were not permitted to open onto public streets. It is fascinating to contrast 17th century church and synagogue this morning.

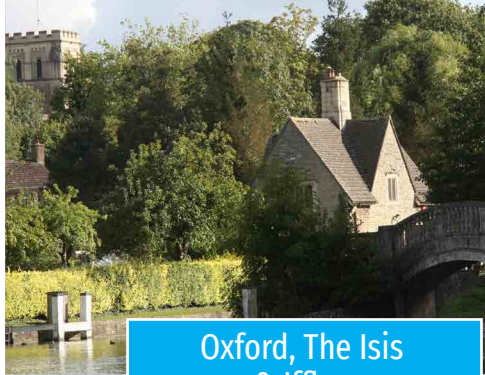
From here we walk to Spitalfields – a hub of Jewish life in the 19th and 20th centuries picking out visible reminders of a vibrant past. For lunch we stop at the old Fruit & Veg Market offering a choice of pubs and cafés with interesting shops and market stalls.

In the afternoon we visit the Jewish Museum in Camden Town. Exhibits include a recreation of the Jewish East End and the Milk Street mikveh - the ritual bath used by women after childbirth.

There's a café on site to buy tea before heading home at 4.45pm.

Adults: £32 Seniors: £31
Available Mon-Thurs





Oxford, The Isis & Iffley

We begin our day in the centre of Oxford at 10.30am for morning coffee, (included) at a Morse pub. Our gentle walking tour through the heart of the university city includes the beautiful courtyard of the Bodleian Library and one of the Oxford Colleges for a trip down memory lane or an introduction to the life of an Oxford student through the ages. We break for free time for lunch on The High or return to the pub for a group lunch.

In the afternoon we cruise from Folly Bridge along a tranquil stretch of river past Christ Church Meadow and the university boat houses. Iffley lock and the village are incredibly pretty. Sitting atop gentle Rose Hill is one of the most beautiful churches in England. It's certainly one of our finest examples of Romanesque architecture: unusually little altered over the centuries. And, my goodness, there are some beautiful stained glass windows including one by the neo-Romantic John Piper.

You can't get to Iffley by coach and you can only reach the Isis farmhouse on foot or by river. This characterful pub on the towpath has a large garden to watch the world go by over a cup of tea or a G&T before taking the boat back to Folly Bridge to head for home at 5.45pm.

Also available as a Jam Buster starting at midday and heading home at 6.30pm.

Adults & Seniors: £28

Available daily March to end of October
Add lunch for £10pp



The Wye Valley & The Royal Forest of Dean

The beautiful Wye Valley is Border Country, fought over for centuries by the English and the Welsh. The great primeval Royal Forest of Dean is a fairy tale Queen of Forests where witches live, miners are free and sheep have badgers. With wonderful scenery all day, a River Wye Cruise and a cream tea included in the tour fee this is a great day for groups who like to see a lot without walking too far.

Our guide hops on your coach at the Severn Bridge to drive into the forest to buy morning refreshments at 10.30am. We explore the Forest of Dean - full of myth legend and tradition. Verderers first introduced by King Canute to guard the 'vert' and the 'venison' are still appointed on a salary of a doe and a buck a year. Free time today for lunch in historic Monmouth, market days are Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

For the afternoon we're out on the water at Symonds Yat for an hour to wind our way through the picturesque gorge and village. Look out for peregrine falcons on the limestone cliffs towering above the boat. Back ashore we visit the lovely old church named for the saint said to have crowned the legendary King Arthur before retiring to enjoy a cream tea (included) at a nearby Elizabethan hotel. The day ends here at 4.45pm. We'll take a direct but very scenic route back to the Severn Bridge, passing the romantic ruins of Tintern Abbey.

Adults & Seniors: £29

Daily March to October



The Top of the Thames

The noble River Thames rises in the Cotswolds near Cirencester where three Roman Roads met and it here we begin with time to buy morning refreshments at 10.30am. Enjoy a gentle walking tour of the town at the top of the Thames with the knowledgeable Blue Badge Guide, including a visit to the Cathedral of the Cotswolds. It's a lovely spot to break for lunch – there are markets here on Mondays and Fridays.

Our first stop in the afternoon is at handsome Fairford to see the remarkable fire and brimstone mediaeval stained glass, designed, quite literally, to put the fear of God into the locals. Then on to Lechlade-on-Thames, a little market town surrounded by meadows, which was once one of England's busiest inland ports taking salt, wool and cheese by barge to Oxford and London. The River Thames begins its working life here, becoming navigable all the way to London and the estuary. Today, Lechlade is a popular destination with boaters aiming to complete the journey all the way to the top of the river.

We are going to take you, a dozen at a time, on a jolly little 30 minute meander in a replica Edwardian gentleman's launch from the Ha'Penny Bridge to the very highest navigable point on the river. We turn at the entrance to the Thames & Severn Canal – our cruise helps to fund the restoration works by the Cotswolds Canals Trust.

Adults & Seniors: £23

Daily Apr to Sept
Add lunch £13pp



Of Biscuits & Bayeux

The French have offered to loan us the Bayeux Tapestry in 2022. Thanks but we've already got one and it lives in the rather surprising Thames side town of Reading. Yes Reading! Trust me, it's a wonderful place.

Meet the Blue Badge Guide at 10.30am to buy refreshments. The ruins of Reading Abbey, founded by Henry I, son of William the Conqueror, are newly restored and splendidly set the landscaped gardens of the Abbey Quarter. Discover an enormous lion, a moving Great War sculpture and Oscar Wilde's Chestnut Walk alongside the old wall of Reading Gaol. Reading is HQ of the Huntley & Palmer biscuit empire and the brilliant H & P gallery in the town museum has an amazing collection of biscuit tins – including a secret rude one that embarrassed the company and the biscuit tin scabbard of a Dervish sword from a battle to avenge the death of Gordon of Khartoum. And yes – faithful replica of the Bayeux Tapestry, 70 yards long made by 35 skilled Victorian embroiderers.

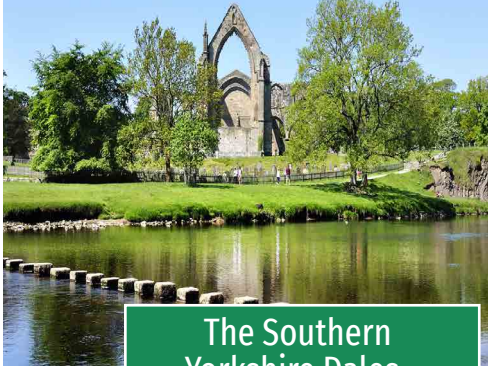
After free time for lunch locally we board a pleasure boat with a licensed bar for the two and a quarter hour cruise downriver through beautiful Sonning to Henley, Queen of the Thames.

You'll be set to head home from Henley at 5.30pm. This exclusive tour is only available Tuesdays to Fridays from 23 April to 24 May and 3 to 27 September 2019

Adults & Seniors: £29

Weekdays exc. kids holidays. Add lunch £10pp





The Southern Yorkshire Dales

We visit Bolton Abbey, the “jewel in the crown” of the Dales, the village of Grassington and take a cruise along the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at Skipton. If you are on holiday in the Harrogate, Leeds or York areas our Blue Badge Guide can come to your hotel.

We begin at Bolton Abbey on the edge of the Dales at 10.30am to buy morning refreshments. The picturesque Norman ruins, admired by Turner and Wordsworth sit in a beautiful riverside setting where the Augustinian canons lived and worshipped until the dissolution. Sixty stepping stones built for the lay workers to commute from the other side of the river survive as an ancient right of way.

We head by coach to enjoy some of the finest limestone scenery in the UK. It is a landscape of drystone walls and flowery hay meadows. We stop to buy lunch in the beautiful village of Grassington in Upper Wharfedale. The bustling cobbled market square is fringed by pubs, cafes and shops offering local foods.

In the afternoon we head to Skipton for a one-hour cruise on the Leeds & Liverpool Canal with an entertaining commentary that blends Northern humour with the history of the canal that delivered the lifeblood of the industrial revolution to the Dales. Tea and biscuits are served on board (included) and you'll be ready to head home or back to your hotel at 4.45pm.

Adults & Seniors: £27

Available daily



The Essex Highlands

A popular tour in our programme for two decades. With morning coffee and lunch included at a great country pub, a coach tour of the little known Essex Highlands in the Hundred of Uttlesford and time for tea and a wander in beautiful Saffron Walden, this is the stuff that great days out are made of.

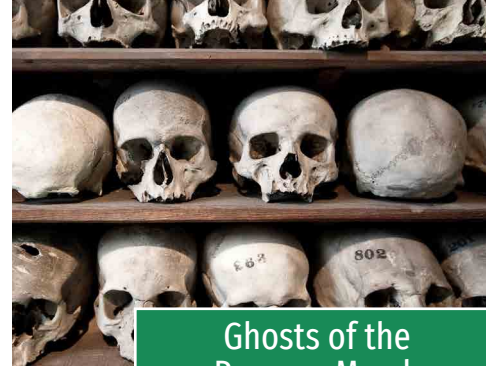
Aim to arrive in Arkesden at 10.30am for morning refreshments ready for our morning coach tour that will forever dispel the notion of Essex as a flat county. Back in Arkesden we enjoy a tasty steak pie lunch. Pre-booked vegetarian and gluten free options are available and on the day you can choose and pay for a desserts from the sweet trolley if desired. After lunch there's time to wander over to see the brightly painted effigies in the old church.

In the afternoon we drive past stately Audley End on our way to Saffron Walden named for the saffron crocus once grown in the surrounding fields. You can join the Guide for a gentle town trail before finishing a spot to settle for tea. We'll be heading home at 4.30pm.

This day also works well with a midday start for lunch followed by a wander to see the memorials in the village church and stretch the legs after lunch followed by the Essex Highlands coach tour arriving in Saffron Walden for time to buy tea before heading home at 5.00pm.

Adults & Seniors: £27

Weekdays & some Saturdays



Ghosts of the Romney Marsh

The Romney Marsh is a remote and mysterious landscape of wide horizons dotted with small villages and ancient churches and pubs beneath huge starry skies. This was a big smuggling area where ghost stories were told to explain those mysterious bumps in the night.

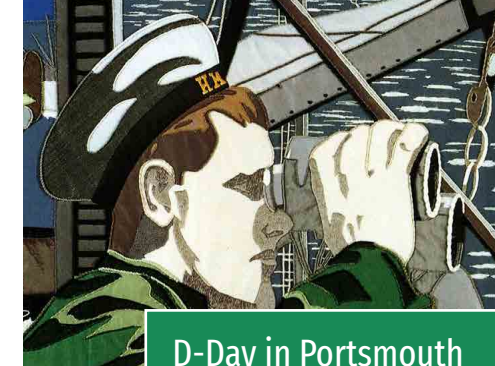
Enjoy an afternoon or evening coach tour full of Marsh mysteries with visits to two country pubs followed by fish & chips at the famous Pilot Inn at Dungeness.

Start points and timings vary to suit you. Come from Kent and we can meet in Dymchurch. From Surrey starting in Appledore works well. The tour including pub stops and supper lasts four hours. So you could meet the Blue Badge Guide for a drink at the first pub at 3.00pm, stop midway at another old pub and finish up with fish & chips at the famous Pilot Inn at 6.00pm ready to go home an hour later.

We've been taking groups to The Pilot Inn at Dungeness for over twenty years and the fish & chips with freshly caught fish from the South Coast fishing fleets has always been tip top. The first Pilot pub was built from the timbers of a Spanish ship deliberately wrecked and looted for its cargo of brandy. And is it haunted? Of course it is! Just don't go to the loo on your own!

Adults & Seniors: £28

Available daily all year



D-Day in Portsmouth

2019, the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings is a great year to visit Portsmouth which played a pivotal role in the operation which turned the tide of World War II. Visit Fort Nelson, Monty's brewhouse in the original D-Day village and the wonderfully revamped D-Day Story in Southsea - home of the Overlord Embroidery.

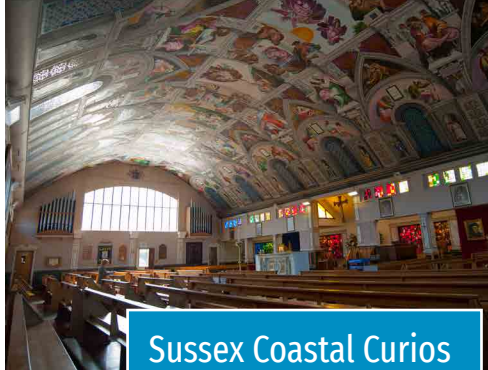
Our day begins at Fort Nelson on Portsdown Hill at 10.30am with time to buy morning coffee (or midday for an early lunch) with panoramic views across the city and harbour. Nestling beneath the hill, picture postcard Southwick became, quite literally, the centre of Operation Overlord. Up at the big house the Allied Commanders gave the signal to launch the landings. In the village the Golden Lion became the unofficial Officers Mess. We visit the perfectly preserved and still working Victorian Brew House which supplied the beer for Monty and General Eisenhower – an almost unique English gem.

Add a group lunch or we'll break for free time in Southsea before visiting the D-Day Story. The £5 million revamp is money well spent lifting the collection from a dusty, rather masculine museum to a very engaging and inspiring visit telling a very big and important story. The centrepiece is the 300-foot Overlord Tapestry which took highly skilled women at the Royal School of Needlework five years to complete. There's a café on site. We'll head home at 4.45pm (5.30pm if you started with us at midday).

Adults £27 Seniors: £25

Available daily all year





Sussex Coastal Curios

This day is both entertaining and easy on the feet with the added attraction of sitting together for morning coffee and a chicken lunch included in the tour fee.

Meet at 10.30am in Bramber (near Steyning on the A283) for morning refreshments. Many of the old cottages in Bramber were built with flint pilfered from the ruins of the Norman Castle. This is one of the prettiest villages in West Sussex so you'll be pleased to know we return here for lunch. We begin our day by visiting an architectural masterpiece the soaring Gothic chapel of Lancing College – truly magnificent. The chapel is the spiritual heart of the boarding school attended by Evelyn Waugh, Tom Sharpe and Sir Tim Rice.

We return to beautiful Bramber for a lunch of seasonal chicken with potatoes and vegetables or a veggie alternative. We'll leave folk to treat themselves to a dessert if they want on the day. In genteel Goring we find a quite astonishing ceiling at the Catholic church. A Local artist and parishioner has created a unique reproduction of Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel. This labour of love and faith took five years of neck ache and painting through the night. This must be one of the most unusual churches you'll ever visit.

Adults & Seniors: £29
Tues-Fri all year



The Suffolk Coastal Tour

Explore the fragile fascinating Suffolk Coast with visits to Southwold and Aldeburgh and enjoy a fish & chip lunch. Meet the guide at 10.30am in Woodbridge to purchase morning coffee.

Suitably refreshed we head straight for the sea passing through Orford, Snape with its famous Maltings and on to Aldeburgh. In this seaside town the MootHall, once the centre of the town, now teeters on the sea's edge. We stop to take in the timeless maritime air and see where the fishermen still sell their catch on the beach.

On to Dunwich - the town has already been claimed by the sea but the brilliant Flora Tea Rooms survive on the beach. This is one of the most iconic and best fish & chip restaurants in the UK lunch. Fresh fish & chips, a slice of bread, a dessert and a cup of tea or coffee are all included in the tour fee.

In the afternoon we continue along the coast towards the elegant little Edwardian resort town of Southwold. Old cottages of great charm cluster around the gleaming white lighthouse and candy coloured beach huts line the shore. Join the guide to explore possibly the finest mediaeval church in England - the home of 'Southwold Jack'.

There's free time to buy a cup of tea and enjoy the town before heading home.

Adults & Seniors: £29
Available daily from Apr-Oct



The Royal Landscape Heritage Tour

Tour the Royal Landscape, visit parts of Windsor Great Park normally reserved for the Royal Family's private use and enjoy The Savill Garden in one beautifully designed day.

Meet at 10.30am to buy morning coffee at Windsor Farm Shop set up by the Duke of Edinburgh to sell produce from the Queen's farms. Your Blue Badge Guide is a Windsor specialist who knows every inch of the Royal Landscape – a thousand acres of gardens, lakes and woodlands where each century has left its distinctive mark. Meet some remarkable trees, see the famous Magna Carta meadows at Runnymede and the Golden Gates at Royal Ascot through which her Majesty sweeps in her carriage.

Windsor, beneath the castle walls is always a good pick for free time for lunch. We've no need to walk all the way from the coach park, we can drop you in town if you have poor walkers.

In the afternoon we take an exclusive tour inside areas of Windsor Great Park to see The Village where Royal household staff live and the Royal School built for their children. We take in the Guards Polo Club and the Coronation Groves and savour one of the greatest views in the Kingdom - the Long Walk from the Copper Horse - beloved of young Royals on their wedding days. A perfect day out ends with a free time visit to The Savill Garden, one of Britain's greatest ornamental gardens. Head home at 4.45pm.

Adults & Seniors: £35 (min 35 people)
Tues-Thurs April to September



Beth Chatto & The Ha'penny Pier

We begin at 10.30am at a thatched pub in beautiful East Bergholt for morning coffee included before heading off the beaten track following the River Stour. The Witch Finder General Mathew Hopkins and Margaret Thatcher both called little river port of Manningtree home. At Mistley two grand towers by the Adams brothers are all that remains of a Georgian scheme to turn this sleepy backwater into a spa town. The river flows into the sea at Old Harwich where the street pattern is still mediaeval and the atmosphere seafaring. We see some fine captains houses and a unique treadmill crane, hearing about Captain Christopher Jones of the Mayflower and Lighthouse Lil, a lady of questionable virtue!

Old Harwich is great to explore with lots of lunch options. Crab sandwiches on the pier anyone?

Beth Chatto was her generation's Gertrude Jekyll. At her garden she pioneered "ecological gardening". The now famous gravel garden, cleverly planted to resemble a dried up river bed, is filled with drought resisting plants and has never been artificially watered. Just a short distance away the atmosphere changes totally with lush, leafy plants around four spring-fed ponds beneath a backdrop of ancient oaks and ornamental trees. There is a nursery on site for the green fingered and a tea house to round off a great day out. We'll aim to have you on the coach heading home at 4.45pm.

Adults & Seniors: £28
Mon-Sat March to the end of October





Winter in Windsor

The £200,000 Givenchy wedding dress worn by the Duchess of Sussex will be shown at Windsor Castle this winter from 26 October to 6 January 2019.

Winter is always a good time to visit the castle as, in addition to the glorious State Apartments, additional rooms known as the Semi-State Apartments normally used by the Royal Family are also shown. And there are fewer tourists! So, although I know some groups need a longer run in to book a trip, for those who can act quickly please do. This is going to be a treat.

Meet our Windsor specialist at 10.30am in Windsor to buy morning coffee before we begin in the castle precincts and St George's Chapel. In the State Apartments paintings from the Royal Collection include Rembrandt, Rubens, Canaletto and Gainsborough. George IV's private rooms, also known as the Semi-States, (open October to March) include some of the most richly decorated interiors.

Free time in Windsor for lunch allows time for those who want to spend longer in the castle and then eat a sandwich on the coach. We'll take you on an exhilarating tour of the Royal landscape, including the view from the Long Walk before stopping to visit the Windsor Farm shop. Visit the café before heading home at 4.45pm.

Adults & Seniors: £33

Available Mon to Sat all year, special dates apply as above for the Semi-States and the dress.



Famously Forgotten

For every major British Museum exhibition our specialist Blue Badge Guides design a companion tour to take your group off the beaten track in the greatest collection on earth.

Maybe you came with us to the Terracotta Army? Divided into two smaller sets you visit the special exhibition and join our guide for an intimate themed galleries tour.

From 8 Nov 2018 to 24 Feb 2019 the British Museum will reveal the history of the greatest king you've never heard of. **I am Ashurbanipal: king of the world, king of Assyria** includes 200 objects — many of which were found on archaeological sites since ransacked by Islamic State. His library, including The Epic of recorded on the famous Flood Tablet, was lost for 2000 years.

The **Famous & Forgotten** galleries tour tells the stories of larger than life characters who were big fish when the world was a very little pond. From Sargon abandoned as a baby in a basket in the bull rushes to Hammurabi whose Code of Law laid down the principal of an eye for an eye, they boasted that they had "all the lands at my feet" but in the end, they too have been largely forgotten.

The day runs weekdays 10.30am to 4.00pm. Look out for more 2019 exhibitions to be announced.

Adults & Seniors: £29

Weekdays 8th Nov - 24th Feb 2019



Christmas Food
Glorious Food

Running from 10.30am to 4.45pm with morning refreshments and the best fish & chip lunch in London or as a Jam Buster starting at midday to buy a light lunch and ending with a little run through the Christmas Lights and a fish & chip supper before heading home at 6.30pm.

Charles Dickens didn't exactly invent Christmas but he did create an idea of a London Christmas that has been exported around the world. It's a picture of foggy streets and hearty feasts with the rich man at his table and the poor man with his nose pressed to the frosted glass.

We'll begin with morning coffee included (or free time for midday lunch) at the beautiful old Leadenhall game market. By coach we'll tour the London of the ordinary man - a world of jellied eels and pie & mash to barrels of oysters and whitebait from the Thames. Then we go up market with visits to Mayfair and the 'dilly. We'll walk through the opulent Burlington Arcade where Beadles clad in top hat and tails are still employed to chase off any Artful Dodgers and visit the Fortnum & Mason Food Hall where impeccable young men in red tail coats stack the shelves.

Day trippers head home at 4.45pm. Jam Busters have a break for a cuppa before the Lights & Sights coach tour and supper, heading home at 6.30pm.

Adults & Seniors: £29

Weekdays Nov & Dec 2018 & 2019



Christmas in Bristol

Aim to arrive by midday for a two-course Christmas Lunch made and served by the apprentices of a community restaurant in the crypt of Bristol's fascinating merchant's church of St Mary Radcliff.

Next by coach for a tour of this vibrant city. We'll see Brunel's iconic Clifton Suspension Bridge and panoramic views of the Avon Gorge from up on the Clifton Downs. Bristol's prosperity has always been linked with the sea – the port, once bustling with sailors & merchants trading goods and setting sail - Ship Shape & Bristol Fashion. Exploring in the company of a top notch local Blue Badge Guide will make the most of your time in Bristol.

Next we visit the Bristol Christmas Markets. The German Christmas Market offers traditional German Christmas gifts as well as Glühwein and bratwurst. The Bristol Christmas Local Market celebrates all things handmade by Bristol craftsmen and artists. Shop all afternoon or join the guide for a stroll to the nearby Old Town area to see the 'nails' which gave us the expression to pay on the nail. If you take the tour you've still time for a browse in the markets.

There's time to buy tea or a bite to eat before heading home at 5.30pm.

We also offer Bristol day trips throughout the year including the new Being Brunel exhibition at SS Great Britain.

Adults & Seniors: £32

Weekdays mid-Nov to mid-Dec in 2018 and 2019.



Send Now for The Big Book of Trips

This little brochure shows just a small selection of our day trips.

Please make sure you have a copy of our main brochure –
The Big Book of Trips 2019.

Call us on 0208 692 1133

Email to info@cityandvillagetours.com
Read online and request a print copy at
www.cityandvillagetours.com

On behalf of Furze field WI, I would like to thank you and all your staff for another splendid trip. It was such a nice relaxing day and our guide for the day, Jan, made it extra special with her interesting, informative and light hearted commentary, she was charming. I'd also like to compliment you on the efficient way booking is carried out.

**Ann Wood,
Furze field WI**

We had a wonderful tour yesterday. Sue was an amazing guide and everyone thoroughly enjoyed her commentary. The meal at The Grand was incredibly good value.

**Bonita Chamberlain,
Erith & Belvedere Local History Society**

Last week we went on your Ashdown Forest tour. We had a wonderful day. The guide, Liz, was excellent, Heaven Farm delighted and Saint Hill Manor was the icing on the cake. We had a charming and knowledgeable young man take us round and then the cream tea in beautiful surroundings. So thank you very much but then all your tours are special. Today I received a cheque for £52 representing a refund for two people who could not make the tour. I think that it is most generous of you and perhaps explains your success. Many, many thanks.

**Colin Stevens,
Canterbury Active Retirement Association**

This was a really lovely day out with perfect weather. We often visit Aldeburgh and Snape for shows and concerts, but it was most enjoyable to learn all about the concert hall, learn how it came about and have a chance to walk through the reed beds. Benjamin Britten's house is charming. The staff were lovely and so helpful. I would recommend this trip even if you don't appreciate his music! Catherine was also extremely good. Great day out. Many thanks.

**Jan Merrick,
Mercury Travel Club**

Thank you so much for a really super day out. Everything went to plan. Doug was very well informed and great fun. The Postal Museum was excellent and I did not know about Exmouth Market what an exciting place great food. So once more a really special day out thank you all.

**Joan Hanks,
St Andrews Ladies Luncheon Club**

Real letters from real organisers. Just saying.





JAM BUSTERS

Jam Busters are beautifully revamped and new London day trip itineraries specially designed to save you from getting stuck in traffic and spending too long on the coach.

Jam Busters proved to be an instant hit with Organisers when we introduced them back in 2017. Especially with groups' who'd suffered a bad experience with traffic and who were as a result hovering on the edge of never coming to London again.

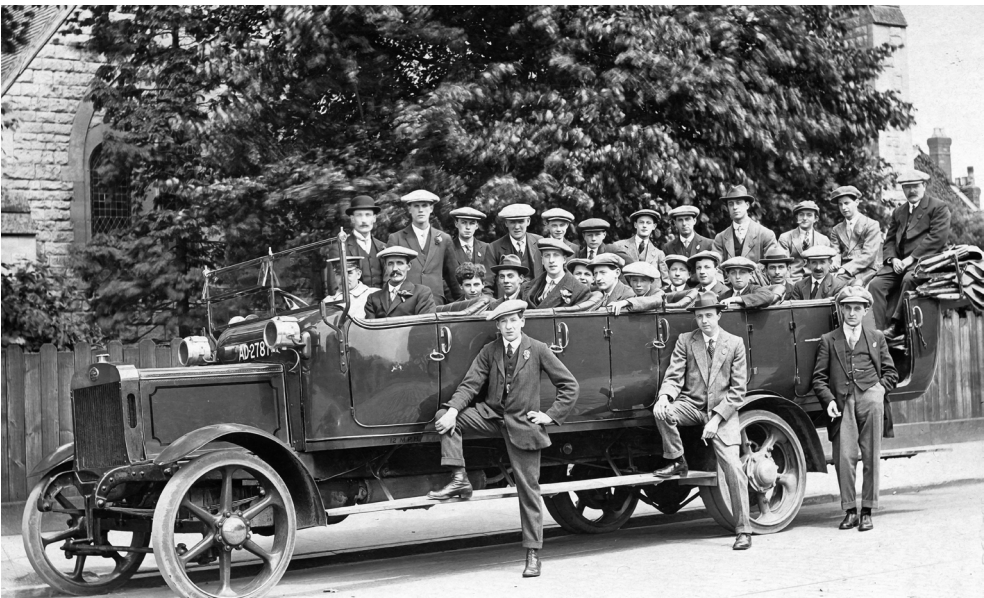
Join the City & Village Off Peak People with one of our Jam Busting solutions:

- Arrive in London at 11.45am for an early lunch at midday, enjoy the full day trip itinerary with nothing left out and then, at 5.30pm when London is in full rush-hour swing, disappear into a lovely pub or restaurant for a bite to eat together with lots to talk about. Then head home on emptier roads. No one minds an early lunch on a day out and it is great getting home with no supper to make.
- Come at 10.30am as usual but head home by 4.15/30pm to steal a march on the London rush hour.
- Come on a Saturday or Sunday when the roads are much quieter.
- Come to London on a May or August Bank Holiday Monday – it's like going back in time 30 years!
- Come into London by public transport. We can adjust itineraries to work for groups arriving by train, underground or bus.

We have Jam Buster options for all London visits.

Call us now on 0208 692 1133 for your copy of the Big Book of Day Trips.

DEMYSTIFYING COACHING IN LONDON



Getting on & off the coach in London

This is very straightforward when you know how it works. Coaches are passenger vehicles and the rules for picking up and dropping passengers are the same as the rules set down in The Highway Code for private cars.

Yellow Lines

As long as your coach does not block the flow of traffic, or stop on a bus stop, it may set down on a single or double yellow line, with or without a cycle lane or bus lane, for as long as it takes to disembark or embark passengers. Take no notice of loading marks – these apply to goods and passengers are not goods, they are people! It might take five minutes or five hours to board or disembark, it doesn't matter as long as there is a continuous activity. Monitoring is often done by camera and if the camera operator cannot see the coach driver sat at the wheel he or she may wrongly decide that the coach is parked. To avoid this, if the driver needs to step down from the coach to assist passengers, we suggest asking a passenger to sit in his or her seat until he or she returns.

The Ten Minute Grace Period

Because it can be difficult to time movements in London traffic no matter how careful your plans, some London Boroughs like Westminster, Camden and the City of London operate a ten minute grace rule for coaches – this means the driver can wait for up to ten minutes on a single or double yellow line to collect passengers – but this grace period only applies if there are no loading marks. Remember - don't ever stop on a bus stop on a yellow route.

Red Lines

The rules for London red routes are different as they are looked after by TFL (Transport For London) whereas the yellow line roads are looked after by the boroughs. Put simply a coach cannot set down nor pick up anywhere on a red route except at a bus stop and only if the coach is registered as a bus. The team of Blue Badge Guides at City & Village Tours know the rules and they will not ever ask your driver to break the law. But if they do ask your driver to stop somewhere lawfully and he or she refuses this might mean a long walk for your members. So it pays to be armed with these rules and preferably with a TFL Coach map, which outlines the rules as not all parking wardens (or drivers) know the correct rules for coaches.

For more information please visit the TFL Website at <https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/coach-drivers/advice-for-drivers>

Understanding LEZ and ULEZ

Coaches Don't Pay Congestion Charge. Vehicles with nine or more seats are eligible for 100% discount of the London Congestion Charge. If a coach company says they have to charge you extra for coming into London it is because their vehicle or vehicles do not meet the required emissions standards known as LEZ & ULEZ.

The LEZ

The Low Emission Zone (LEZ) covers central London. Coaches registered before 2006 do not comply with the LEZ emissions standard unless they have been retrofitted with a diesel particulate filter (DPF) and must pay a £200 per day charge to drive into central London.

The ULEZ

The Ultra Low Emission Zone comes into force on 8 April 2019 and will operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in central London. It will be expanded to take in the whole of London by 2020. Coaches need to meet a standard known as Euro VI (6) to comply with ULEZ. Coaches meeting LEZ but not ULEZ will have to pay a charge of £100 per day.

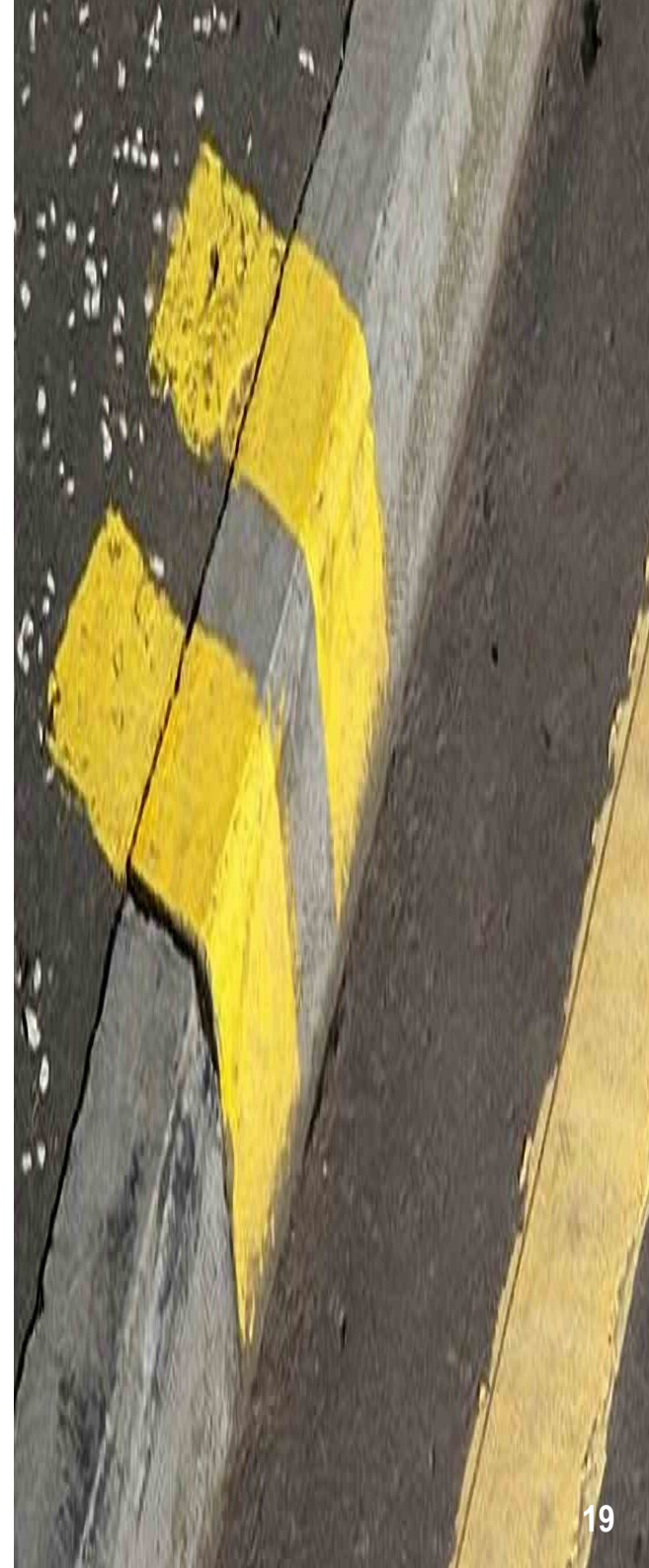
Brexit isn't likely to affect the coming of the ULEZ. It hasn't been ordered by the EU but by the Mayor of London. It is an initiative that is designed to save lives.

It's not a sudden move: it's been on the cards since 2012. Just over half of all UK coaches registered since 2015 meet the Euro VI but it is very expensive to replace coaches with LEZ and ULEZ compliant vehicles. Black cabs have received Government funding but no money has been forthcoming for coach operators.

Some coach companies have elected not to upgrade their vehicle or vehicles and as a result may say they can no longer bring you into London. But this isn't the same as coaches being banned in London!

London is Still Too Good To Miss

So now might be the time to ask your coach company if they are Euro VI, also written as Euro 6 compliant. And if not? Tell them they will still be your number one choice for non-London trips but for your group to continue to enjoy the best city in the world you'll need to choose a new coach operator.



A grand, ornate ballroom with a balcony, chandeliers, and a clock face. The room is dimly lit with warm, golden light from chandeliers and candles. A balcony with a decorative railing is visible on the left. In the center, a large clock face is illuminated with blue light. The floor is polished wood, and there are several small tables with lit candles in the foreground.

How Our *SleepOvers* Work

The Nitty Gritty

- The minimum number is 25 people
- All **SleepOvers** include one free organiser place
- Absolutely all admissions are included
- We include 5-20 singles without supplement
- Free colour mini-brochures
- Some **SleepOvers** include coaching
- Option to include your favourite coach company
- In which case up to one in ten can travel free
- Includes free driver bed & board
- 100% ABTA approved Passenger Payment Protection
- Free Group Travel Organiser Liability
- 100% refundable group deposit of £100 secures booking
- Individual deposits due 4 months out
- Final payments due 2 months out

See our full terms in the Big Book of Trips
Call 0208 692 1133 for your copy



The **SLEEPOVER** Range

The perennial problem for group organisers is the growing demand for single rooms. It's not that group members aren't sociable. It's the getting up in the middle of the night for a little walkabout and the outside possibility of a bit of snoring. We've put this need central to our planning and, working with some super hotels, we are able to include between 5 and a marvellous 20 single rooms without supplement.

We're also keen to enable you to travel with your preferred coach company and your favourite drivers. Remember that the chances are we've been working with your coach company for up to 30 years. Our Blue Badge Guides know your drivers. So the last thing we want to do is take your business away from them. And when we include your nominated coach company you get a price that's based on a minimum of 25 people (so you never have to go around cap in hand asking for more money if you don't get the bigger numbers you want) but as you fill the coach we return that lower cost of travel to you in free places so that up to one in ten places are absolutely free.

2019 will be our fourth year of putting our 30 years of Day Trip experience into arranging **SleepOvers**. We're not pile-them-high bed sellers - we are the award winning experts in what you are going to do when you get there. So the sightseeing programme always comes first with hotels selected, not for the margins we can earn, but for the location and suitability for group stays which includes immaculate housekeeping, good food and friendly staff.

So whether you are a long standing customer who can now **SleepOver** and enjoy trips from our programme that have always been just too far from home for you to enjoy in one day or you've seen us winning the guided tours awards over the past two decades and the **SleepOvers** have at long last given your members a chance to enjoy our top notch trips, we really look forward to taking you away in 2019.



Find Out More...

To see the full range of **SleepOvers**

You need The Big book of trips 2019

Call **0208 692 1133**

Email info@cityandvillagetours.com

Or visit www.cityandvillagetours.com



The London SleepOver

Day One: Arrive in central London anytime from midday to 3.00pm for a Thames Cruise from Westminster to Royal Greenwich and enjoy some free time visiting this World Heritage Site. The National Maritime Museum and newly refurbished Queens House are both free to visit. Check in to the 3* family run Clarendon Hotel a few minutes away on elegant Blackheath where the London Marathon starts. Rest up and then gather for a 3-course, 3-choice dinner together.

Day Two: Your choice of London day trip with a top-notch Blue Badge Guide. Choose from our extensive portfolio including The People's Post, Legal London, and Many Queens with Clarence House and Jewish London.

- One night 3* Dinner, Bed & Breakfast
- Thames Cruise Westminster to Greenwich
- 20 single rooms without supp Sunays,
- 10 single rooms without supp Weekdays,
- Your Choice of guided day trip
- Blue Badge Guide and all admissions
- Free bed & board & parking for your driver
- 100% Passenger Payment Protection
- Free GTO Liability Insurance

£129pp Let us book your preferred coach company and up to one in ten travel free.

Budget option bed & breakfast only and no Thames cruise **£109pp**

Option for Cockney Matinee or Strictly Tea Dance on Day One.

Also London Theatre **SleepOver** – West End Matinee Wed/Thurs, one night dinner, bed and breakfast at The Clarendon hotel (not shoved out at Heathrow!) and free time or guided tour on day two.



Canterbury Cathedral SleepOver

In the private Canterbury Cathedral grounds lies one of the world's most perfectly located small hotels. Each room has a cathedral view and guests receive a pass to breeze past the tourist queue for free Cathedral entrance as many times as you want. Arrive Sunday to enjoy shopping and sightseeing in the city and experience the majesty of Choral Evensong at 3.15pm. In the evening enjoy the chef's three course Sunday dinner cooked just for your group.

On Monday a Blue Badge Guided tour begins with a gentle city walk and Cathedral tour while both are quiet before elevenses back at the hotel while the guide supervises portage of your luggage. We'll drive to Faversham, the summer capital of the Saxon Kings, for a 2-course lunch with coffee at an ancient pub with hop garlands and an old inglenook fire place. After lunch a little stroll to discover the finest mediaeval street in England. Just right to help lunch go down before starting the drive home at 3.00/3.30pm.

- Sunday night 4* dinner, bed & breakfast
- 3 course evening meal with coffee
- Very Good Cooked breakfast
- 5 single rooms without supplement
- Blue Badge Guided tour Monday
- Admission to Canterbury Cathedral
- Mid-morning refreshments on Monday
- 2-course lunch with coffee Monday

Sunday- Monday October to end March '18 & '19 **£189pp.**

Let us book your preferred coach company and include the cost and up to one in ten will travel free.



Lichfield, Arboretum & Birmingham

SleepOver in Lichfield with a Blue Badge Guided tour of Birmingham & Lichfield and a visit to the National Memorial Arboretum.

Day One: Meet the Guide at midday at the Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery for free time for lunch followed by a visit to the Staffordshire Hoard - the largest collection of Anglo-Saxon gold and silver ever found. Enjoy an entertaining coach tour of the City of a Thousand Trades from the Jewellery Quarter and the back-to backs to the leafy suburbs including Bournville. Then on to beautiful and compact Georgian Lichfield - one England's smallest cities to check in at the 3* Best Western George Hotel in the center of town.

Day Two: Enjoy a couple of hours after breakfast to walk to the cathedral and local attractions including the Erasmus Darwin and Samuel Johnson houses before heading to The National Memorial Arboretum. There's a café on site to buy a light lunch. This is the UK's centre of remembrance, celebrating and honouring the men and women who have served the nation. On the 50-minute land train tour of the 150-acre site you'll see a good selection of the 300 memorials. You'll be ready to head home at 3.30pm.

£169pp Includes one night 3* Dinner, Bed & Breakfast with 10 no-supp singles, Blue Badge Guide, Lichfield Cathedral guided tour and Land Train tour.

£249 with your choice of coach and up to one in ten free places.



The Great Stink & London's Lost Rivers

2000 years ago the Romans enjoyed indoor plumbing at their villas but until Victorian times Londoners were still throwing the contents of their chamber pots out of the window. In 1858 the long hot summer became The Great Stink as raw sewage from the growing city emptied into the Thames turning into an open sewer. Clearly something had to be done.

Sunday: Meet the Guide at midday to visit Bazalgette's Cathedral of Sewage and see a beautifully restored Crossness Engine fired up and under steam. Light lunches and snacks are available to buy on site. Check in at the nearby Clarendon Hotel by 5.00pm with plenty of time to brush up before a three course, three choice meal is served in the hotel restaurant.

Monday: After breakfast we drive down to Greenwich for a one-hour Thames Cruise to Westminster where the Victoria Embankment houses Bazalgette's massive sewer. We tell the story of spending a penny from Roman times and track London's lost rivers, following the Fleet to Hampstead where a cooked lunch with a hot drink is included. To round off a super short break we visit Kenwood House, a grand 18th century house gifted to the nation by the Guinness family. You'll be all set to start the drive home at 4.30pm

- One night 3* dinner, bed & breakfast
- Blue Badge Guide 2 days
- All admissions
- Thames Cruise
- 20 singles no sup

£179pp or **£229** inc. your choice of coach company and one in ten free places.



**Black Gold
Cardiff & the Rhonda**

The story of Cardiff's growth from a small fishing village to the UK's busiest coal exporting dock when the 'black gold' of the Rhonda became one of the most valuable commodities in the world. The story is told from the perspective of the Marquis of Bute – the richest man in the world, the ship owners, agents and mine owners who met to make and lose fortunes at the Coal Exchange, now a luxury hotel where we stay and, of course, the coal miners of the Rhonda Valley.

Day One: Arrive lunchtime for a Blue Badge Guided tour of Cardiff City, the Bay and our hotel! At the Cardiff Coal Exchange the price of the world's coal was set making it as important as the Bank of England. Today just a few yards from Cardiff Bay this is a luxury hotel where we check into deluxe bedrooms, all with Jacuzzi spa baths. Dinner is served on the Exchange Floor.

Day Two: A free day in Cardiff including a guided tour at Cardiff Castle, the extraordinary Victorian Gothic fantasy palace created from a Roman fort and Norman castle for the Marquis of Bute. We've left dinner tonight to your own arrangement giving you the freedom to stay in the city for a concert at St David's Hall or enjoy a show at Cardiff Millennium Centre or dinner in the Cardiff Bay Quarter just yards from the hotel.

Day Three: The Rhonda Heritage Park for a journey underground with a retired miner and a ride to the surface with the last dram of coal. Suitable for poor walkers.

£369 including coaching, 10 singles and all admissions. We invite you to nominate your preferred coach company - on this trip up to one in ten places will be free.



**Wild & Wonderful
Sussex**

A three day stay in Bramber or Worthing includes St Mary's House, two very special churches, The Sussex Prairie Garden and a wildlands safari at Knepp Castle.

Day One: Arrive in Bramber to visit St Mary's House and Gardens. This 15th century house has a unique Elizabethan trompe l'oeil Painted Room, intriguing literary connections and 5 acres of beautiful gardens. Then simply cross the High Street to the Tollgate Hotel to check in or take a short drive to the best hotel in Worthing. A three course dinner is laid on.

Day Two: Sussex Coastal Curios & The Prairie Garden. An exhilarating day out with an entertaining Blue Badge Guide begins with visits to the soaring chapel of Lancing College and the extraordinary painted ceiling of the little Catholic church at Goring. Free time for lunch in picture postcard Steyning is followed by a visit to the Sussex Prairie Garden - a joyful kingdom of colour where huge, dazzling beds hold thousands of bright and bold perennials. Instead of *Keep off the Grass* signs little paths encourage you to walk into and through the borders. Back to the hotel for dinner.

Day Three: When Charlie Burrell inherited Knepp Castle he let the 3500 acre estate run wild and created a paradise for wildlife. Longhorn cattle, deer and wild pigs graze and breed without human intervention. Rare species from nightingales and turtle doves to peregrine falcons and Purple Emperor butterflies thrive. We've arranged an exclusive Wildland Truck Safari and walking tour with the estate ecologists. Stop to buy lunch nearby before heading for home in the early afternoon.

£369 Includes coaching, all admissions, one day Guide. Your choice of coach with one in ten travel free. 4* Tollgate Hotel inc. 5 singles no supp. 3* Ardington Hotel, Worthing 10 singles no supp.



**Creeks, Cockles
& Cockneys**

Southend on Sea is our base for this three-day break. The 4* Park Inn by Radisson Palace looks out over the water on the Western Esplanade within a few minutes' walk of the beach, gardens and shops. Nearby the popular Cliffs Pavilion offers a programme of touring musicals to comedy and film.

Day One: Midday - Arrive at Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome near Maldon for a guided tour of the site followed by lunch with coffee and tea in the jolly bunting hung Mess Hall and *Those Magnificent Men*. Presented by two superb musicians this is an intimate musical show that tells the story of 100 years of aviation heroes. Continue on to Southend to check in at 4.30pm. A three-course, three-choice dinner is served in the sea-view hotel restaurant.

Day Two: An exhilarating day of lonely creeks and wide horizons with an expert Blue Badge Guide. Visit the ancient chapel of St Peters on the Wall and explore the remote Denge Peninsula. Free time for lunch at Burnham-on-Crouch and an afternoon visit to Old Leigh, home of the cockle boats.

Day Three: After breakfast enjoy a couple of hours in Southend before visiting RHS Hyde Hall. With sweeping panoramas, big open skies and far reaching views this Essex garden has an eclectic range of inspirational horticultural styles from traditional to modern. Highlights include the traditional Hilltop Garden and the Mediterranean Dry Garden. There's a very good restaurant on site for a light lunch and tea before heading home at a time to suit you.

£359pp including your choice of coach, 2 nights 4* dinner, bed & breakfast, all admissions, *Magnificent Men* show with lunch, one day Blue Badge Guide, 10 singles without supp.



Sissinghurst & The Cinque Ports

5 days

This carefully crafted five-day break, with 10 single rooms without supplement, explores the Kent coast and countryside with visits to Walmer Castle and the White Cliffs, the Battle of Britain Memorial, Deal and the Romney Marsh with a ride on the famous miniature railway to Dungeness for fish & chips at the legendary Pilot Inn. Plus two treasures of the Kent countryside – Sissinghurst Castle & the Port Lympne Reserve.

Day One: En route to the coast stop for a midday light lunch and visit at Victoria Sackville-West's Sissinghurst Castle. The Grade I listed garden is operated by the National Trust so do be sure to let us know if you have NT members who will benefit from free entry. Arrive at the hotel by 4.00pm to check in and relax before dinner is served.

Day Two: With the Blue Badge Guide we visit The Kent Downs & Battle of Britain Memorial, enjoy panoramic views from the White Cliffs of Dover, stop in unspoilt Deal for free time to buy lunch and explore Walmer Castle. This is more like a little stately home than a castle with beautiful gardens. English Heritage members have free entry here.

Day Three: Free day – enjoy Folkestone and the surrounding area. Walk along the Leas to the Old Town, sit on the beach and try the seafood in the Old Fish Market. Bring your binoculars for a day at RSPB Dungeness or visit Canterbury (both are easy by public bus from Folkestone).

Day Four: Rye & The Romney Marsh with the Blue Badge guide including the mediaeval marsh churches, a ride on the miniature railway and a visit to Dungeness to see the unique mix of fishermen's cottages and homes. Fresh fish & chips are served at the legendary Pilot Inn before an afternoon exploring lovely Rye.

Day Five: Our week away concludes with an exhilarating safari at Port Lympne, with far reaching views across the Romney Marsh and out to sea. This important breeding sanctuary returns endangered species to the wild including black rhinos and gorillas. This visit will send you all home with broad smiles. There's time to see the gorillas at feeding time, visit the big cats and the little meerkats and buy a light lunch before beginning the drive home at 3.00pm.

- Executive Coach travel throughout
- 10 Single rooms without supplement
- 4 nights 4* Burlington Hotel, Folkestone
- Dinner, bed and breakfast each day
- Two days with the Blue Badge guide
- Absolutely all admissions and train fares
- Light lunch at Sissinghurst Castle
- Fish & chip lunch at the Pilot Inn
- Free place for the group organiser
- 100% Passenger Payment Protection
- GTO Liability Insurance

This holiday includes our coach for four days to save hire costs on the Wednesday free day in resort and one free organiser place. If you prefer we can give you a quote including your preferred coach company which will include up to one in ten travelling free.

The 4* Burlington Hotel is a family run hotel with 60 bedrooms on the Folkestone Leas. The housekeeping is immaculate and all bedrooms are ensuite and come with the usual in room amenities. The hotel's Bay Tree Grill restaurant is well known in the local area and plays host to modern British menus inspired by ingredients that are locally sourced. The hotel is the choice of local Probus and Rotary Clubs.

£579pp Based on 25 people.

Available throughout the year

Prices include all coaching and all admissions and day trip lunches

Harrogate, York & the Dales

5 days

With its handsome historic buildings and beautiful gardens, Harrogate is one of Yorkshire's most elegant destinations. Browse the antiques shops try the famous Betty's Tea Room, explore the Montpellier Quarter with the Royal Pump Room Museum and pamper yourself in the gorgeous Moorish-style Turkish Baths & Health Spa.

Our five day break includes the coach, two days with the Blue Badge Guide, a free organiser place based on minimum 25 people and 15 rooms for single occupation without supplement. All of our **SleepOvers** are suggestions and we are happy to tweak and tailor trips to your specification.

Day One: Arrive in Harrogate at a time to suit you. We will plan the route with you to make an enjoyable day of it. For example if you are coming from Kent, Surrey or Sussex a stop to buy lunch and enjoy the Land Train ride at the National Memorial Arboretum works very well. Aim to check in by 5.30pm giving enough time to settle in before a three-course dinner together in the evening.

Day Two: After breakfast head off with the Blue Badge Guide to James Herriot country with a visit to his house and surgery in Thirsk. After free time

for lunch in this handsome market town enjoy a tour of York. Choose a visit to York Minster or the Jorvik Viking Centre, not everyone has to do the same. We head back to the hotel late afternoon to brush up for dinner together.

Day Three: A free day to enjoy beautiful Harrogate. A visit to Betty's Tea Rooms is a must! Perhaps a matinee at Harrogate Theatre?

Day Four: With the Blue Badge Guide we explore the Southern Yorkshire Dales including Bolton Abbey, the cobbled market town of Grassington (free time for lunch) and a one hour cruise on the Leeds & Liverpool Canal at Skipton. See page 16 of this brochure for a description of this day out.

Day Five: A final big breakfast before checking out. We can arrange a far more interesting place than the dreaded services to stop off on your way home to suit your route. Options include Isaac Newton's Woolthorpe Manor at Grantham (NT) or market day in Stamford.

Nominate your preferred coach operator for this holiday and up-to one in ten will travel free.

- 4 nights Dinner, Bed & Breakfast Harrogate
- 15 Single rooms free of supplement
- Executive coaching throughout
- Blue Badge Tour Guide for 2 days
- Admission York Minster or Jorvik Centre
- Admission James Herriot House
- Admission Bolton Abbey
- One hour Canal Cruise with tea/coffee
- Free Group Organiser Place
- Free driver bed and board
- Overnight coach parking throughout
- 100% Passenger Payment Protection
- Free GTO Liability Insurance

The 3* Yorkshire Hotel, Harrogate *

A really nice 81 bedroom hotel with a good old fashioned sense of service. Central location opposite the famous Betty's Tea Rooms, cosy & comfortable rooms with complimentary tea and coffee making facilities, toiletries and Wi-Fi.

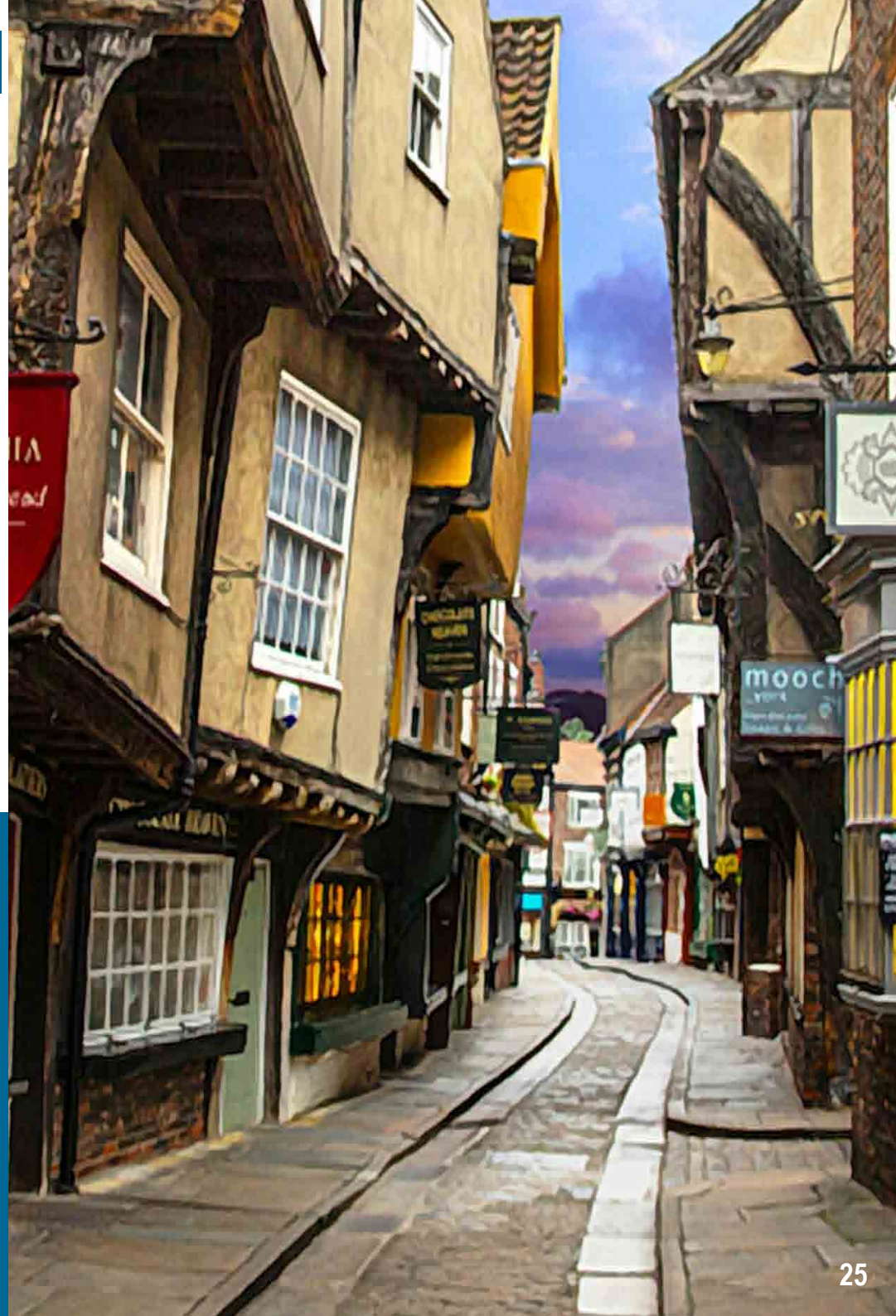
The 3* Cairn Hotel, Harrogate

This friendly and grand Victorian hotel has bigger bedrooms but it is a 7 minute walk from the centre. The 135 bedrooms are traditional (you might say old fashioned) and immaculate and come with complimentary tea & coffee making facilities. There's WiFi in public areas.

* The Yorkshire Hotel is aiming for 4* in 2019

£589pp Based on 25 people.

Available throughout the year





The Big Smoke

5 days

This is a super value five-day London break based at the 3* Clarendon Hotel on Blackheath next to Royal Greenwich and just 8 miles from Trafalgar Square. Enjoy the best of the capital with an entertaining series of themed days. A hotel dinner is included on the first and last nights.

Day One: Meet the Blue Badge guide in the shadow of Big Ben at midday for a Thames Cruise Westminster to Royal Greenwich. We'll break for some free time in Greenwich for lunch before we check in at 4.00pm. There is time to settle in, relax and freshen up before a 3-course, 3-choice dinner is served at the hotel.

Day Two: Pomp & Ceremony Depart hotel 9.30am with the Blue Badge Guide. See the Changing of the Queen's Life Guard, visit the Household Cavalry Museum, explore Whitehall and Downing Street and enjoy an in depth guided tour of Westminster Abbey. We offer a concierge service for West End Theatre tickets. Dinner choice is up to you this evening; the hotel has a restaurant and elegant Blackheath Village on your doorstep has many pubs and restaurants.

Day Three: The City of Culture

Enjoy the Culture Capital of the World with The British Museum and National Gallery, the famous Borough Farmers Market, and, if you're game for it, take in a bit of modern art at Tate Modern. Opt to spend an evening in the West End with a hotel carvery and selected West End show for an additional fee of just £49 to £59 per person depending on the show.

Day Four: Law & Disorder

Today the theme is all things legal and illegal! Your Blue Badge guide will trace the history, traditions and peculiar practices of English Law with visits to Inner and Middle Temple and the Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand. After free time for lunch, we head East to explore the Sinister side of London with tales of Jack the Ripper, the Secrets of Scotland Yard and the thrilling story of crime and punishment through the ages.

Day Five: Royal Greenwich Check out time is 11am. Enjoy some free time in Royal Greenwich and the Royal Park today before making tracks for home at a time to suit you.

- 4 nights B&B 3* Clarendon Hotel
- 3 Course dinner first & final night
- 10 Single rooms free of supplement
- Coaching throughout
- Free Driver half board, 24 hr parking & tips
- Four days with a Blue Badge guide
- River Cruise & all entrance fees
- Free place for Group Organiser
- 100% Passenger Payment Protection
- Free GTO Liability Insurance

Optional 2-course carvery with coffee at Strand Palace Hotel & top price theatre ticket for selected shows - from £49 to £59 per person.

The 3* Clarendon Hotel is comprised of a row of eighteenth century residences with commanding views across Blackheath to Royal Greenwich Park with 20th century additions to the rear of the hotel. This hotel with 175 rooms has been independently owned by the same family for over 50 years. The housekeeping is impeccable and the staff really care about your comfort.

£539pp Based on 25 people.

Available throughout the year

We invite you to nominate your preferred Coach Company. On this holiday up-to one in 10 places are free.

Send Now for The Big Book of Trips

This little brochure shows only a small selection of our **SleepOvers** and short breaks in the UK.

We've lots of new ideas in our main brochure – **The Big Book of Trips 2019**.

Call us on 0208 692 1133

Email info@cityandvillagetours.com
Read **The Big Book of Trips 2019** online and request a print copy at www.cityandvillagetours.com

City & Village did a wonderful job and organised everything for me, so much so, there was little for me to do except to sit back and enjoy everything with our group. Without exception there was not one person in the group who did not enjoy our short visit to the Cotswolds. City & Village Tours had really done their homework. The hotel which looked over beautiful grounds was first class with a lovely swimming pool. The rooms were excellent, and the staff lovely, nothing was too much for them.

Enid Pamment,
Shefford Leisure Group

I am writing to let you know how everyone enjoyed our visit to Liverpool. I have had numerous compliments on the itinerary and organisation... The itinerary was just right, allowing plenty of free time for everyone to do their own thing. Paul, our Guide was excellent, very informative and enthusiastic about "his" city.

Joan Shepley,
Petersfield U3A

Absolutely wonderful, compliments to your company. Outstanding. Peter the Guide! He's brilliant, good company – he gave us a wonderful trip.

Richard Davies,
Llandindrod Wells Probus Club

The trip was a great success and from beginning to end everything went like clockwork with absolutely no problems whatsoever. Everybody had a great time! The hotel was lovely and the staff genuinely helpful at all times. The rooms and the food were all very good. Our Guide John was first class, very informative, witty and he marshalled everybody to be in the right place with grace and humour. Without exception all the trips were thoroughly enjoyable. We were all amazed how much there was included in the three days.

John May,
Joydens Wood Active Retirement Association

*We are now on the return journey from our **SleepOver**. I thought I would take the opportunity of writing to you to say how much everyone has enjoyed the trip and of course the weather has added to everything measurably as did Jan's guiding! So the prayers to the Sun God worked!*

Gwen Wright,
Cranleigh Arts Society

Real letters from real organisers. Just saying.





How Our West End Theatre Trips Work

The Nitty Gritty

- Reserve tickets without deposit
- All tickets are top price stalls and dress circle
- For selected musicals pay four weeks before the show
- Buy all or just some of the reserved tickets
- If you need to cancel you don't lose a penny
- Tickets are posted to you - no Box Office queues

See our full terms in The Big Book of Trips

Call 0208 692 1133 for your copy



The *WEST END* *THEATRE* Range

When you book selected West End Musicals with City & Village Tours you don't have to pay for the tickets until four weeks before you go. So you never have to take a punt with group funds. Book theatre tickets only or combine the show with a hotel carvery meal.

We are also the pioneers of the Jam Buster West End Matinee. Forget about eating a big lunchtime meal which will have your members struggling to keep their eyes open during the show. Forget coming out of the show and fighting your way home in the rush hour.

Play it smart and book a City & Village Tours Jam Buster. Come into London around 1.00pm and grab a coffee and a sticky bun near the theatre. Enjoy the show, bright eyed and bushy tailed, and then, when you come out of the theatre at the height of the rush hour, let them get on with it while you disappear into a swish hotel for a carvery meal with lots to talk about. Then drive home on emptier roads. And, best of all, when you get home there's no supper to make! Just take out the bins, kick off your shoes, bit of news headlines and bed. All together now – wouldn't it be loverley!

For top tips for getting on and off the coach in Theatreland see page19.

Find Out More...

To see the full range of West End Theatre
You need The Big Book of Trips 2019
Call **0208 692 1133**
Email info@cityandvillagetours.com
Or visit www.cityandvillagetours.com



How Our Matinee Shows Work

The Nitty Gritty

- Book your group with a 100% refundable £25 deposit
- Afternoons run from midday to 3.30pm
- All seating is reserved
- Pay one week before the show
- Where there's a bar there's reasonable prices
- Free on site coach parking for Cockney Matinee, Strictly Tea Dance & Those Magnificent Men

See our full terms in The Big Book of Trips

Call 0208 692 1133 for your copy



The *MATINEE SHOW* Range

The Mighty Wurlitzer Christmas Concerts at The Musical Museum were our very first Matinee Show back in 2007 with groups joining us in Brentford in West London every year since. The concerts are still available in November & December 2018 and November & December 2019, now with lunch included.

Our joyful Cockney Matinees have been running every week in the Royal Docks in London's East End for a year now. With free coach parking on site, a wonderfully spacious venue with reasonably priced bar drinks and a traditional Cockney meal in a basket, the Cockney Matinees will continue to be available every Tuesday in 2019 with no price increase from this year. Our very entertaining Cockney performer brings you an afternoon of warm-hearted entertainment with absolutely no bad language that will have your folk dancing their back to the coach.

Now every Wednesday in the Royal Docks we present The Strictly Tea Dance. Hosted by a professional comic and impressionist and our professional dance couple this memorable afternoon is part show and part traditional tea dance so it will suit both your dancers and your non dancers alike. With a savoury afternoon tea starter served on arrival at midday with your first pot of tea and a classic Afternoon Tea served on tiered stands with bone china tea cups in the interval, it's an elegant and entertaining afternoon of fun. You don't have to be a dancer to enjoy this.

Over in Essex at the Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome near Maldon we present a musical show in the authentic Men's Mess Hall that tells the story of Those Magnificent Men in their flying machines. Two great musicians will take you through the whole gamut of emotions as we celebrate the lives of the men and women who gave everything for their country. The afternoons are available Monday, Thursdays and Fridays throughout 2019 and include lunch and a guided tour of the world's last surviving Great War Aerodrome.

All of our Matinee Shows are Jam Busters running from midday to 3.30pm so you miss the rush hour at both ends of the day.



Find Out More...

To see the full range of Matinee Shows
You need The Big Book of Trips 2019
Call **0208 692 1133**
Email info@cityandvillagetours.com
Or visit www.cityandvillagetours.com



Join us Tuesdays in 2019

The Cockney Matinees

On Board the Tereza-Joanne in the Royal Docks in London's East End

Proper Cockney Entertainment

Starring Gordon Bennett - Chas & Dave meets Max Bygraves with a dash of Max Miller. Keyboard, Ukulele & the Cockney Spoons with Sing-a-Longs, Comedy and Dancing. It's a Right Old Cockney Knees Up to send your folk home with a smile.



**Includes Chicken & Chips
or Goujons of Fish & Chips in a Basket**

Cash Bar

Level access & moored boat
Free coach parking

A warm hearted afternoon with absolutely no bad language at a wonderful venue with polite, friendly & efficient staff

Every Tuesday throughout 2019
Noon to 3.30pm
Miss the rush hour at both ends of the day

Group Bookings
Call: 0208 692 1133

Ask about the Christmas Specials

£25.00pp
Minimum 25 people
Every Tuesday in 2019

THE COCKNEY MATINEES

The Cockney Matinees are a Triumph!

The venue in London's Royal Docks has spectacular views across the water to the City skyline. Groups sit at reserved banqueting tables, all with great sightlines, around the generous dance floor. This is a Jam Buster so groups arrive for lunch at midday and dance their way back to the coach at 3.30pm missing the rush hour at both ends of the day.

The fully licensed bar is open throughout the afternoon. Add dessert and a coffee for your group or let them choose and pay their own way from the tempting and very reasonably priced dessert trolleys that come round in the interval.

MD Gyll King loves Gordon Bennett's beautifully crafted shows, attending every Tuesday that she can. Gyll says:

"It's the absolute highlight of my week, I love it. When I look round the audience as well as all the laughter I see that particular smile on people's faces, the wonderfully contented one that says that right here, right now everything is right with the world".

If you'd like to see the show for yourself before you book for your group you are welcome to come with a friend as our guest. To reserve your space call us on 0208 692 1133.

Just a quick thank you for the Cockney Show yesterday. Everyone on our coach was very happy and had a great time. We have fielded several phone calls and had customers coming into the office saying what a brilliant day they had. Our two drivers were most impressed and said the staff on the boat couldn't have been more helpful and attentive. We shall certainly consider repeating the trip again in the future.
Steve Ring, Bluebird Coaches

My group really enjoyed it and to see them get up and dance was marvellous.
Vivien Osborne The Phoenix Friendship Group

Everyone had a great time... Gordon Bennett was very good.
Karen Kirby, Kirbys Coaches

Because the Okey Cokey is exactly what it is all about.

The Strictly Tea Dance Wednesdays Throughout the Year

City & Village Tours presents The Strictly Tea Dance on Wednesdays throughout the year in London's Royal Docks in the East End.

Hosted by comic and impressionist Chris Wheeler and our professional ballroom and Latin dance couple join us for a memorable afternoon that combines demonstration dances, professional tips with fun and games and participation tea dancing.

Whether your folk want to sit back and watch our professional dance couple or get up and dance there is something for everyone in this gentle afternoon entertainment. Our talented host will bring a great deal of laughter and the uncanny presence of some favourite Strictly presenters from Brucie to Len.

Arrive at midday at the Tereza-Joanne in London's Royal Docks (a five minute drive from the Brick Lane Music Hall). This is a huge white boat permanently moored in the Royal Albert Dock. As you approach you can tell its a boat but once you step aboard (easy access & accessible loo) apart from the fantastic views across the water to the Docklands & City skyline it is a beautiful and spacious banqueting suite transformed for the afternoon into our ballroom.

From the moment you arrive the tea doesn't stop coming and to take the edge of your journey your folk will be served some savoury afternoon tea nibbles. There's a fully licensed bar where you can purchase the usual wines, beers and spirits and you're welcome to warm up with a dance or two before the show starts at 12.45pm.

Our Master of Ceremonies, the immaculate Chris Wheeler will soon break the ice ready for a wonderful afternoon with his warm hearted comedy and gently reverential impressions of Strictly favourites. The our professional dance couple make their entrance. Sit back to enjoy

the spectacle of ballroom dancing at its best. During the afternoon our dancers will present a number of individual demonstration dances and offer some professional tips and share some style and technique secrets, inviting your folk to take to the floor and showcase their own skills - or lack of them! After all fun and entertainment is the name of our game today. We aim to infuse your folk with the feel good factor & send them home whistling.

The show is in two halves of one hour. At the end of Act One at 2.00pm we will serve our impressive afternoon tea and members of the audience are once more invited to take to the floor throughout the 45 minute interval.

For Act Two we go Latin! Our professional dance couple sweep once more on to the floor with a spectacular demonstration dance followed by more fun and games with members of the audience invited to take to the floor and some fun judging. Throughout the afternoon Master of Ceremonies Chris Wheeler moves everything along at a nice clip and the tea continues to flow.

Your folk will love our exciting finale - whether they get up and join us or watch the action this is a beautifully produced warm hearted afternoon of beauty and laughter that your members will be talking about for a long time to come.

You can join us for the Strictly Tea Dance Wednesdays throughout 2019. Tickets include our amuse bouche afternoon tea savoury starters followed by an impressive afternoon tea of sandwiches, cakes and scones and unlimited tea and coffee. There is ample free coach and car parking on site and disabled access including wheelchair accessible toilets. Tickets are £35pp. Group minimum is 25 people but smaller groups are welcome to join subject to availability.

Book now on 0208 692 1133



Those Magnificent Men

Booking now on 0208 692 1133

Barely a decade after the Wright Brothers took to the skies impossibly brave young men climbed into flimsy aeroplanes of wood, canvas and glue and took off from the grassy runway of a requisitioned farm at Stow Maries in Essex to defend their country against Zeppelin attacks.

In marking the 100th anniversaries of both the Great War and the RAF we celebrate Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines with an afternoon musical show in the authentic men's Mess Hall of the world's last surviving Great War Aerodrome. Our performers, singer John Knowles and virtuoso Paul Higgs on keyboards, will take you on a musical journey from the first days of flight, through the glory and pain of the Great War, and on to the daring exploits of the Second World War.

Interspersed with snippets of the historical milestones of Stow Maries, the Royal Flying Corps and the RAF this memorable afternoon runs through the whole gamut of emotions stirred by the exploits of the young men and women who gave everything for their country. Songs include Those Magnificent Men, Snoopy Versus The Red Baron, Wing & A Prayer, and all of the most loved Great War standards through to The Dam Busters March, some 1940s Boogie Woogie and, of course, a bit of We'll Meet Again and The White Cliffs of Dover.

"This is joyful, moving, flag waving stuff."

Singer John Knowles has music in his blood. In his youth he played across Europe with his band Talisman. In more recent years he has led the magnificent entertainment ensemble Cockney Pride. John's intimate style will tug at your heartstrings and his lovely, gentle sense of humour will warm the old cockles.

Paul Higgs on keyboards is one of the UK's leading trumpet players and composers. His extensive musical career included many years as Musical Director at the National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company. Paul has performed with a stellar list of musicians from Johnny Dankworth to John Williams. He has played at major concert halls around the world from Ronnie Scotts to the Royal Albert Hall.

Together John and Paul create a magical afternoon taking you on a unique and very entertaining musical journey through 100 years of **Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines**. A Mess Hall Afternoon Tea with sandwiches, sausage rolls and scones is served and the afternoon also includes an optional guided tour of the Stow Maries site and time to see the Museum.

Those Magnificent Men is also a Jam Buster making sure that you miss the rush hours at both ends of the day.

Arrive on site near Maldon in Essex at 11.45am for the optional tour and time to see the museum.

At 1.30pm we serve our Mess Hall Afternoon Tea with a mix of sandwiches, savouries and scones and the entertainment begins.

There'll be some sing-a-long opportunities, a bit of dancing if you wish, and a short interval and when the show finishes you'll be safely back on your coach ready to head home at 3.45pm.

Adults & Seniors: £35

Available Monday, Thursday & Friday all year
Minimum 30 people, maximum 65 people



For many more ideas please ask for The Big Book of Trips 2019

Bookings & Brochures 0208 692 1133

Info@cityandvillagetours.com

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CITY & VILLAGE TOURS

PRESENTS

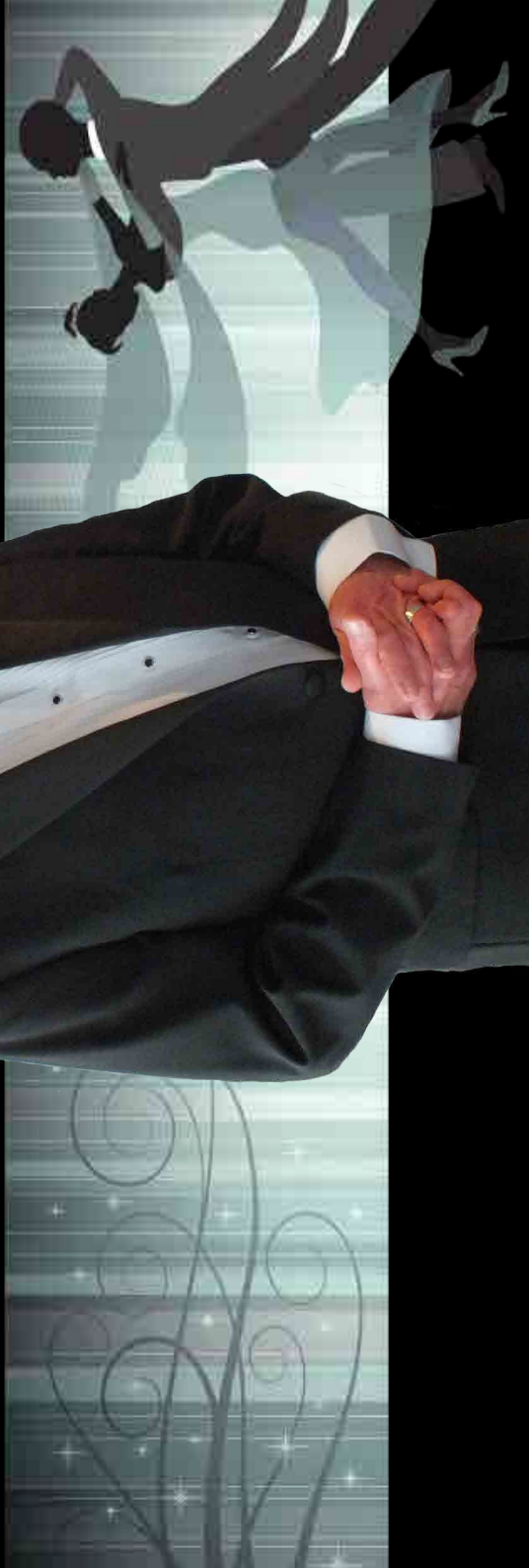
THE STRICTLY TEA DANCE

EVERY WEDNESDAY

IN THE ROYAL DOCKS IN LONDON'S EAST END



Hosted by Chris Wheeler
Comedian & Impressionist
with a Professional Ballroom
& Latin Dance Couple
Part Show, Part Get Up & Dance
100% Fun



An Impressive Afternoon Tea
Endless pots of tea
Cash Bar

Noon to 3.30pm
Miss the rush hour at both ends
Free Coach Parking
Minimum 25 people



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