

# Guided historic tour around the West of England



## Highlights

Stonehenge, Tintagel, and the sights of Bath are just a few of the highlights of this jam-packed historic tour around the west of England. Qualified guides make sure you get the most of it, and comfy, home-from-home accommodation means you've got a relaxing place to retreat to at the end of long days sightseeing.

Your starting point might well be the least glamorous part of this tour – Swindon railway station – but it's also the gateway to a plethora of must-see sights. This eight-day historic tour delves deep into England's history with trips to Neolithic stone circles, moated castles and Glastonbury abbey. You'll wend your way through Wiltshire, Devon, Cornwall and Somerset discovering all sorts of exciting places, and you'll end each day at cosy guesthouses and public inns so comfort's not compromised on either.

Stonehenge is this tour's biggest and best-known site, but there's a great cast of supporting artists too - the city of Bath for one. With its regal-looking houses in horseshoe crescents, its magnificent Roman baths and cathedral, it's no wonder it's listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. You'll also spend a day on Dartmoor seeing mystical stone rows and circles, as well as the Bronze Age settlement of Grimspound. And then there's Tintagel – the birth place of the King Arthur legends. With all this and more to squeeze into eight days, this really is an epic adventure.

## Is it for me?

If you want a historic tour that squeezes as many historical and archaeological sights in as possible then this one's sure to impress. It's bound to be popular with tourists from overseas wanting to see as much as possible in a relatively short space of time. If you're the sort of person who prefers to idle around town, taking time over things, then this might not be the best option – with so much to see and do you'll be spending a lot of time being whisked off.

## Accommodation

Guesthouses and public inns are where you'll be staying on this tour, and because they've all been vetted by the Archaeotours team you can rest assured they'll be up to scratch. In terms of food, you can expect good breakfasts to set you up for the day, and then it's up to you what you'd like for lunch and dinner – these aren't included in the price of the tours so make sure you budget for them too.

## Itinerary

### Day 1: Avebury

You'll be met at Swindon railway station and will then make your way to Avebury to explore the Neolithic stone circles. Lunch will be served in the ancient thatched Red Lion Inn and then afterwards you'll head to West Kennet burial chamber and Silbury hill. You'll stay the night at a guesthouse in the Vale of Pewsey.

### Day 2: Stonehenge

Today kicks off with a visit to Devizes museum where you'll be able to see archaeological finds from Avebury.

Prices from

**825** GBP (8 days) per person

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Then it's on to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Stonehenge for a wander around this mysterious place. In the afternoon you'll spend time at Old Sarum and Salisbury for visits to the cathedral and museum. Then it's back to your guesthouse in Pewsey.

#### Day 3: Glastonbury

It's off to Devon today with a stop en route at Nunney to see its moated castle. You'll then travel south through Glastonbury where you can visit the Abbey or just wander around the shops. After this, you'll make your way down to Devon with – if time allows – a stop in Honiton for a cream tea and then finally on to East Charlton near Kingsbridge. The Ashburton Arms will be your home for the next three nights – delicious, homecooked meals are served here or you can get a taxi into Kingsbridge for more choice.

#### Day 4: Torquay

You'll visit Kent's Cavern – a home for Prehistoric people during the Ice Age. There's then the chance to visit the Torquay museum or you can just take it easy with a stroll along the seafront. In the afternoon you'll spend time in Exeter where you can explore the cathedral, shops and the museum. There may also be time for a trip to Buckfast Abbey on the way back to East Charlton.

#### Day 5: Dartmoor

You'll start at Merrivale for a visit to the stone rows, a stone circle, standing stones and hut circle settlements. Then it's on to the High Moorland centre exhibition at Princetown – home of the infamous Dartmoor prison. After lunch you'll visit Grimspound Bronze Age settlement, and then – if there's time – it's off to either Scorhill or Fernworthy stone circles.

#### Day 6: Cornwall

You'll travel over the Tamar bridge and up to Bodmin moor. Here you'll explore a burial chamber called Trethevy Quoit as well as the Hurlers stone circles. There'll also be time for trips to Tintagel and Boscastle before you make your way to your hotel in Bude.

#### Day 7: Wells

Today you'll drive through Cheddar Gorge and stop in Wells where you can explore the cathedral or wander around the town. Then it's on to Stanton Drew in Somerset to see the stone circles. After a long day you'll arrive in Bathford and settle into the gracious surroundings of Eagle House.

#### Day 8: Bath

Stacked with sights like the Roman baths, the Pump Room, the Abbey, the Assembly Rooms and the Royal Crescent to name a few, you'll be hard pushed to squeeze it all in. Once you've crammed in as many sights as time allows you'll be taken to the railway station to bid your fond farewells.

## Details

### Getting there

The meeting point on day one is Swindon railway station – trains run regularly from London Paddington.

### Price includes

Transport, bed and breakfast, and entrance fees to Kent's Cavern and Stonehenge. Entrance fees (apart from those listed) and meals are not included.

### Price details

A single supplement of £40 applies

### Available

Jan—Dec

### Typical Duration

8 days

### Comfort level

Reasonably comfortable (Inns, B&Bs, luxury camping etc.)

### Experience required

A reasonable interest is all that is needed