

Morag Walks

“Gentle Companionship for the Journey”

Friday, September 25 to Friday, October 2, 2009

Autumn in England

Location: Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire

Accommodation: The White Lion Hotel www.whitelionhotel.net

Overview

- The 7 days will be a combination of trips to historical and beautiful locations in Yorkshire and gentle walks in the surrounding country side.
- Local guides and historians will join us for these walks.
- We will be staying in a modernized hotel built in 1659 in the heart of Hebden Bridge. With its own pub and restaurant you can eat local food and drink local beer.
- Hebden Bridge is a small village with traditional village shops, but has quick access by train or road to other parts of the country.
- You will be surrounded by the history of centuries, its architecture, and breathtaking scenery.
- You will explore a part of England and meet some of its people.
- Each Morag Walk is an adventure with up to 10 other travelers.

Contact

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Itinerary

1. Friday, September 25, 2009

- We meet at the White Lion Hotel in Hebden Bridge at 4 pm, with supper at 5 pm. We will introduce ourselves, have a drink and review the itinerary for the week.
- In the evening we will take a walk around the village.

2. Saturday, September 26, 2009

- After breakfast at the White Lion we will catch the bus to Haworth 10 miles away, home of the Bronte sisters.
- We will visit the parsonage where the Bronte sisters lived, explore the shops, enjoy the restaurants, and take a journey on a steam train.
- You can choose where you would like to eat this evening. Hebden Bridge has a number of interesting restaurants.

3. Sunday, September 27, 2009

- After breakfast we will walk with a guide from the White Lion up through Hardcastle Craggs, now owned by the National Trust, onto the moors and along to the Pack Horse Inn, another pub built in the 1600's. This will take just over 2.5 hours at a leisurely pace.
- On the way we will stop for a visit at the Gibson Mill, an early 19th century cotton mill lying in the beautiful wooded vale of Hebden Dale. When cotton weaving declined in the late 19th century, it enjoyed a new life as a popular tourist destination. The National Trust now presents the buildings as a model of environmental self sufficiency.
- After one of the best meals ever at the Pack Horse Inn, such as roast beef or lamb the choice will be to walk back using another route along the top of the hills to Heptonstall and down the Buttress, or to catch the bus back.
- Your breath will be taken away not by the climbing or the walking, but by the vistas.
- On our return to Hebden Bridge a traditional English tea will be served.

4. Monday, September 28, 2009

- After breakfast we will travel by bus to Mytholmroyd, birth place of Ted Hughes who was born in 1930. Ted Hughes is considered one of the best poets of his time. He was Poet Laureate from 1984 to 1998. He was married to Sylvia Plath the American poet who committed suicide in 1963; she is buried at Heptonstall.
- A local historian will meet us at a cafe to talk about Ted Hughes, his poetry and the impact of Mytholmroyd on that poetry.
- We will be guided around Mytholmroyd and climb gently onto the moors to explore the places Ted Hughes loved as a child. And there is much to love. We will eat our packed lunch along the way.
- If time permits later in the afternoon we will visit a local organic brewery, the Little Valley Brewery.
- That evening we will eat at a local fish and chip shop in Hebden Bridge.

5. Tuesday, September 29, 2009

- We will travel by train to York, a 1 hour 45 minute journey through beautiful scenery.
- At York we will have a guided tour of York Minister and have tea at Betty's Tea Room.
- If time allows we can visit the Jorvic Centre, a Viking settlement that was discovered during excavations for a new building in the 1980's.

6. Wednesday, September 30, 2009

- You will have the morning to explore on your own. In addition to the village shops Hebden Bridge has some quality arts and crafts boutiques.
- We will meet another local historian in the afternoon and travel by bus up the steep hill to Heptonstall, an ancient hilltop village overlooking Hebden Bridge.
- We will walk around this small old gem of a place that time has not altered. We will learn of its history, enjoy the old buildings and country side and visit the grave of the poet Sylvia Plath.
- After a visit to the local pub we will walk down the Buttress back to the White Lion where we will eat supper together.

7. Thursday, October 1, 2009

- We will walk with a guide in the valley of Crimsworth Dean.
- We will have packed lunches with us so we can enjoy the scenery at our leisure.
- A few of Ted Hughes's poems will be read along the way as they reflect on this place where he spent time as a child.
- That evening we will have a farewell dinner at the Hinchliffe Arms, a pub in Crag Vale, just beyond Mytholmroyd.

8. Friday, October 2, 2009

- We can bid adieu after breakfast or after lunch.
- I can arrange a short canal boat trip for those interested.
- I can assist you to make travel arrangements to either the train station or the airport.

Cost

(to be paid on basis of British pounds)

- Based on double occupancy is 860 pounds (approx \$1,550 Cdn dollars at 1.8 exchange rate).
- The single supplement is 175 pounds for a total of 1,035 pounds (approx \$1,860).

This includes:

- 7 nights accommodation at the White Lion Hotel with full English breakfast each morning.
- The services of 4 different guides.
- 2 suppers at the White Lion Hotel.
- 2 packed lunches.
- 1 traditional English tea.
- Tea at Betty's Tea Room.
- Farewell dinner at the Hinchliffe Arms.
- Guided Tour of York Minster.
- Entry fee to Bronte Parsonage.
- Train to and from York.
- Buses to and from Haworth, Heptonstall, and Mytholmroyd.
- Transportation to and from the Hinchliffe Arms.
- Steam train at Haworth.

Booking

- A deposit of 50% is required at the time of booking.
- The remaining 50% is due by August 31, 2009.

Cancellation Fee

- I strongly advise you to consider buying travel insurance.
- If you cancel before July 31st there is a cancellation fee of \$100.
- From August 1st to until August 31st the cancellation fee is 25% of the total cost.
- After August 31st the cancellation fee is 75% of the total cost.

Clothing

- We can expect colorful leaves and clear light.
- Temperatures will range from 10 to 22 C.
- If you have hiking boots bring them, otherwise sturdy waterproof walking shoes will do.
- Dressing in layers helps. It will be sweater weather. And it can be very blustery on the moors.
- You will need a waterproof jacket, I suggest waterproof pants, thin gloves and a hat.

Getting there

- From Fredericton you can fly Air Transat on Tuesdays to Gatwick Airport, then either fly to Manchester or catch the train to Hebden Bridge; there is a train station at Gatwick Airport and the trains run frequently.
- You can fly Air Canada to London Heathrow. From there you can go by train to Hebden Bridge or fly to Manchester Airport.
- I can assist you with your transfers from the Manchester Airport or meet you at the train station in Hebden Bridge.