

TOGETHER WE TRAVEL!



solo
connections





England in Bloom
16 Days
Fully Escorted
Departs 09 May 2020

ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Cheltenham
- Cotswolds
- Oxford
- Stratford-upon-Avon
- Bath Abbey
- Stonehenge
- Exeter
- Penzance
- Truro Cathedral
- Minack Theatre
- Land's End
- Canterbury
- Cliffs of Dover
- Hever Castle & Gardens
- Chartwell House
- Changing of the Guards
- Chelsea Flower Show

INCLUDES:

- Economy class airfares including taxes*
- **Private single rooms** in quality accommodation
- **Meals** as per itinerary - 14 Breakfasts, 9 Lunches, 5 Dinners
- **Sightseeing** tours and transfers by private vehicle
- **Tour Escort** – travels with group from/to Brisbane
- Local English speaking guide
- Tipping – Guides & Drivers

EXCLUDES:

- Any meals other than mentioned above
- Items of a personal nature i.e. laundry, drinks, phone calls, etc
- Travel Insurance

From \$10,395* per person

Terms and Conditions apply. Price is per person Sole Use and subject to availability. Price is correct as at 5 June 2019. Based on Economy class Singapore Airlines airfare. Tour requires minimum number of passengers to depart. Prices may fluctuate if surcharges, fees, taxes or currencies change. Solo Connections is constantly striving to improve our itineraries and inclusions. If such improvements can be made, or unforeseen circumstances beyond our control make changes necessary, we reserve the right at any time to vary itineraries and to substitute inclusions of equal value. Beverages, additional meals, hotel mini bars, laundry, phone calls, any items of personal nature not included. Further booking conditions apply, please check all prices, availability and other information with your travel agent at time of or before booking. Package cancellation fees apply. Denise Marie Falsay trading as Solo Connections. ATAS Accredited A11424. ABN 92 582 582 99



Day 1 – Saturday 09 May 2020
Depart Brisbane 6:10PM

Today we meet our Tour Escort and fellow travellers at Brisbane International Airport for our flight to **London** via Singapore.

Day 2 – Sunday 10 May 2020
Arrive London 7:45AM/London - Cheltenham

L-D

Welcome to England. On arrival we'll be met by our coach and transfer on to **Cheltenham** in the county of Gloucestershire. Cheltenham is the most complete Regency town in Britain and is known as 'The Western Gateway to the Cotswolds'. The town is known for refined elegance and Regency terraces all surrounded by glorious countryside. We'll stop and have some lunch when we arrive today and then check into our hotels during the afternoon. Some time to rest before the group meets for dinner tonight.

Accommodation: Queens Hotel Cheltenham McGalle or similar 3 Nights

Day 3 – Monday 11 May 2020
The Cotswolds

B-D

Today we'll tour the **Cotswolds**. Famous for quintessentially English market towns and villages built from honey-coloured stone, the Cotswolds are a range of gently rolling hills and known for their outstanding natural beauty. Today we'll visit some of the lovely villages in this area including **Chipping Campden** – beautifully well-preserved and full of history, but also full of life and bustle. We'll visit **Kifsgate Court Gardens** which three generations of women gardeners have designed, planted and sustained, and which is famed for its roses. It also has spectacular views to the Malvern Hills and beyond. Returning to the hotel this afternoon we'll have dinner there tonight.

Day 4 – Tuesday 12 May 2020
Oxford/Stratford-upon-Avon

B-D

Today we'll visit the city of **Oxford** – famed for its prestigious university which was established in the 12th century. We'll take a walking tour and include a visit to the **University Church** of St Mary the Virgin. We'll also have a photo stop at **Merton College** – one of the oldest and most beautiful colleges in Oxford with medieval and 17th-century buildings. After a stop where we can buy lunch we'll travel on to **Stratford-upon-Avon** for a short tour of this beautiful old town. We'll visit the **Holy Trinity** church, where you can visit the grave of William Shakespeare if you wish (entry by donation) before we journey back to Cheltenham late this afternoon. Dinner tonight will be at the hotel.

Day 5 – Wednesday 13 May 2020
Cheltenham - Bath

B-D

Today will be an earlier start as we make our way to the city of **Bath**. Bath is the largest city in **Somerset** and known for its hot springs, Roman period baths, medieval heritage and stately Georgian architecture. We'll visit **Bath Abbey** with its 1200 year old history (entry by donation) and stop to view **Pulteney Bridge** which crosses the **River Avon** and was completed in 1774. We'll also make a photo stop at the **Royal Crescent** – one of Bath's most iconic landmarks overlooking



Royal Victoria Park. This afternoon we'll check into our hotel and have some time at leisure before meeting for dinner tonight.

Accommodation: Bailbrook House Hotel or similar 1 Night

Day 6 – Thursday 14 May 2020
Bath - Exeter

B-L

This morning after breakfast we'll say goodbye to Bath and make our way to **Devon**. En-route today we'll stop at the UNESCO World Heritage Site, **Stonehenge**. This site attracts millions of visitors per year. The Neolithic standing stones have attracted a lot of speculation about their origin, and their reason for existing is shrouded in mystery. We'll travel on to **Salisbury** and stop for lunch at a restaurant in this medieval cathedral city before continuing on to **Exeter** and checking into our hotel there. The ancient city of Exeter dates back to the Roman era and is home to a magnificent cathedral, vaulted, medieval underground passages beneath the city and a lovely quayside where you can imagine old galleons docking. Checking into our hotel this afternoon the evening is at leisure so your Tour Manager will have some ideas about things to do if you'd like join her.

Accommodation: Jury's Inn Exeter or similar 3 Nights

Day 7 – Friday 15 May 2020
Exeter

B-D

Today we'll tour this lovely city. We'll visit **Exeter Cathedral** and also the beautiful **Rougemont Gardens** which surround the castle. The site was originally part of William the Conqueror's defences for Rougemont Castle during the Norman Conquest. When William ordered the construction of the castle in 1068 a defensive ringwork was included, and this characterises the shape of gardens which were constructed in the late 18th century. We'll return to the hotel this afternoon for some time at leisure before meeting for dinner tonight.

Day 8 – Saturday 16 May 2020
Penzance/Truro/Land's End

B-L

Today we'll continue our touring of this beautiful southern part of England with a visit to **Cornwall**. We'll visit the market town **Penzance** in the far north west of the county where we'll be able to view **St Michael's Mount**. A Cornish equivalent to Mont-Saint-Michel in Normandy, St Michael's Mount is a spectacular tidal island, accessed via a man-made granite causeway at low tide and home to 30 permanent inhabitants. We'll stop for lunch in Penzance and then visit **Truro** – the only city in Cornwall. This afternoon we'll visit **Land's End** and the wonderful **Minack Theatre** which is nestled in a gully with staggering views over the water and rugged **Porthcurno Bay**. Returning to the hotel late this afternoon dinner tonight is at leisure and your Tour Manager will let you know where they are going so you are free to join if you wish to.

Day 9 – Sunday 17 May 2020
Exeter - Canterbury

B-L

After breakfast this morning we'll depart today for **Kent**. On the way we'll skirt around London, stopping for lunch in **Windsor**, home of the famous castle. From there to **Canterbury** which was a pilgrimage site in the Middle Ages and made famous by Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. The city, which sits on two arms of the River Souris is home to some of



the finest architecture in England and is still partially enclosed by a wall first constructed in Roman times. We'll spend a little time walking around the city before checking in at our hotel. Dinner tonight is at leisure and your Tour Manager will let you know where they are going so you are free to join if you wish to.

Accommodation: Best Western Abbot's Barton or similar 2 Nights

Day 10 – Monday 18 May 2020
Canterbury/Dover

B-L

This morning we'll tour this beautiful old city with its famous cathedral and rich history. We'll stop for lunch for continuing on to view the famous **White Cliffs of Dover**, most famous as an iconic landmark - the white chalk face a symbol of home and war time defence. From here we will see unrivalled views of the busy **English Channel** and the **French** coast before returning to our hotel this afternoon where dinner tonight will be at leisure. Your Tour Manager will let you know where they are going so you are free to join if you wish to.

Day 11 – Tuesday 19 May 2020
Hever Castle/Chartwell

B-D

Today we will head for London but stopping along the way. First to **Hever Castle** where we'll take a tour of the gardens here at the childhood home of **Anne Boleyn**. 125 acres of glorious grounds that promise to be bursting into bloom in the spring. A yew maze, a water maze and over 4000 roses in the quintessential English rose garden. We'll also make a photo stop today at **Chartwell** – home of **Winston Churchill** before travelling on to London where we'll check into our hotel. Dinner tonight will be at a local restaurant.

Accommodation: Ibis London Excel Docklands or similar 4 Nights

Day 12 – Wednesday 20 May 2020
London

B-D

After breakfast this morning we'll tour the city of **London**. We'll go to **Lambeth Bridge** which crosses the **River Thames** and from here we'll see **Big Ben** - the famous Great Bell of the clock at the north end of the **Palace of Westminster**. We'll also see **Buckingham Palace** today to see the **Changing of the Guard**, a ceremony which epitomises the pomp and military ceremony for which Britain is famous. As we tour around London we'll also see the outside of the Houses of Parliament – also known as the **Palace of Westminster** -located on the left bank of the Thames, and also **Hyde Park** in central London. We'll return to the hotel this afternoon and dinner tonight will be at our hotel.

Day 13 – Thursday 21 May 2020
Chelsea Flower Show

B-D

The **Chelsea Flower Show** is Britain's most prestigious flower show. It has been held in the grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea, London every year since 1913, apart from gaps during the two World Wars. World-renowned garden designers, plant specialists, florists and nurseries come together every year to show off cutting-edge garden designs and inspirational floral exhibits. Today we will transfer to the Show where we can stroll through show-stopping and award-winning gardens. **Rare flowers** and plants, and creative floral artworks. **Emerging gardening trends**, horticultural products, gardening



gadgets sculptures and plants are all to be found here. Returning to the hotel this afternoon and dinner tonight will be at our hotel.

Day 14 – Friday 22 May 2020
At Leisure/Farewell Dinner

B-D

Today is our last day and we are **free to explore**. You don't need to be on your own (unless you want to be) and your Tour Manager will arrange with the group what everyone would like to do for this last day in **London**? More sightseeing? Or shopping? A bargain at the markets or perhaps something more high end. The choice is yours. The group will gather tonight for a **farewell dinner**.

Day 15 – Saturday 23 May 2020 Depart London 09:25AM
Day 16 – Sunday 24 May 2020 Arrive Brisbane 4:55PM

B

A light breakfast on the run this morning as we take an early transfer to the airport for our flight. Happy memories and new friends as we make the journey home.