

May 3, 1996 Revised 7/14/96

To: The England Tour Group

From: Your Tour Guide

Your tour is BOOKED. Now I need some money. The revised budget is as follows:

	<u>Final</u>	<u>Deposit</u>	<u>August 18</u>	<u>In England</u>
• Airfare, Lodging, Car	\$3480	\$ 872	\$2608	
• Train	\$ 100			\$ 350 Rev 7/14
• Gas	\$ 50			\$ 50
• Tours & Entrance Fees:	\$ 350			\$ 350
• Food:	<u>\$ 800</u>			<u>\$ 800</u>
Total	\$5030	\$ 872	\$2608	\$1550

This is \$670 lower than my first estimate, which I am sure justifies a TIP to the tour guide. The Chicago group gets to go for \$32 lower. I need \$872 per couple so I can make a deposit BEFORE 5/8/96. \$50 goes toward the tour, \$118 is for Cancellation Insurance, and \$704 is for the Hotels which we could not book through American Airlines (identified as NV below).

Balance Due BEFORE 8/18/96: \$2,174.30 for Buchannan; \$2,608.30 for Bucklin, Calo; \$2,206.30 Evans *

* See Travel Agent Note

Tour No: BWFDGB Tour Name: BWFD GR BRITAIN Agent: Ceile, World Wide Travel Inc (615) 824-0190

Flights are:

1	16-Sep-96	0143P Flight	BNA ORD AA561	Z	HK	SADGWR
		0310P Arrival				
2	16-Sep-96	0445P Flight	ORD LHR AA86	Z	HK	SADGWR
	17-Sep-96	0620A Arrival				
3	30-Sep-96	0100P Flight	LHR ORD AA67	Z	HK	SADGWR
	30-Sep-96	0350P Arrival				
4	30-Sep-96	0625P Flight	ORD BNA AA1769	Z	HK	SADGWR
	30-Sep-96	0750P Arrival				

Lodging is:

1	17-Sep-96	London:	Bryanston Count Hotel	Marble Arms	\$126/night Chg
2	18-Sep-96				
3	19-Sep-96	York:	Deans Court		\$147/night
4	20-Sep-96	Edinburg:	Bruntsfield Hotel		\$150/night NV
5	21-Sep-96	Chester	Queens Court		\$151/night NV Chg
6	22-Sep-96				
7	23-Sep-96	Ludlow	Dinham Hall		\$126/night
8	24-Sep-96	Chippin Camden	Noel Arms		\$126/night
9	25-Sep-96	Salisbury	Red Lion		\$147/night
10	26-Sep-96				
11	27-Sep-96				
12	28-Sep-96	Ashbury	Forte Posthause		\$90/night NV Rev. 7/13/96
13	29-Sep-96	Ashbury	Master Spearpoint		\$126/night NV

Chg indicates that we were unable or chose not to book our original lodging per the plan.

ENGLAND TRIP

The Flight: Leave 4:45PM from Chicago and Arrive 6:20 AM in England

The Flight takes approximately 8 Hours from O'Hare Airport and Heathrow Airport and there is an 6 Hour time difference.

You can expect 30 minutes to get your luggage and another 30 minutes to get through customs. It will takes us another 30 minutes to an hour get oriented and get to our Hotel for the first day. We arrive at the Hotel at 8:30AM. This is too early to check in so we should stow our bags at the hotel.

Day # 1: Arrive Bryanton Court Hotel in London

The Bryanton Court Hotel ("C" Voucher) is on the northeast corner of Kensington and Hyde Park. The plan for this day is "there is NO plan". Everyone is pretty much on their own to explore the area around the Hotel, to eat or to sleep. There are a couple of recommendations:

8:30 AM:	Arrive at the Hotel and Stow the bags (see if we can check in)
9AM to 10:30AM:	Walk to breakfast
10:30 to 11:00AM:	Setup for Guided Tour for the Next Day and get Rail Passes for Day #3 & #4

ALL Day Options:

- The London Experience (9 Hrs) (\$86). The West End, lunch, Tower of London, St Pauls Cathedral. Includes West Minister Abbey and the changing of the Guards.

Morning Options:

- Look at London (2 Hrs) (\$23). Orientation Tour.
- Buckingham Palace Morning Tour (4 Hrs) (\$51) Includes a West End Tour

Afternoon Options:

- Buckingham Palace Afternoon Tour (4-1/2 Hrs) (\$56) Includes a panoramic city tour and a short River Thames Cruise.
- City and Tower of London Tour (3-1/2Hrs) (\$47) Includes St Pauls Cathedral and the Tower of London
- Windsor Castle and Runnymede Tour (5Hrs) (\$40).

The plan is that each couple (or trade-offs) can decide what they want to do. Pick your own tour and plan the rest of the day (if anything is left). Then we will meet in the evening for another excursion into the Pub's.

11:00 to 5:00PM:	You are on your own. I have attached a map of the Kensington area so you can roam.
5:00PM	Meet for Dinner at a PUB. Suggestions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Albert Pub's Dinner (\$25). A Three course dinner at one of London's most beautiful pubs (it is on the tour route, so it may be crowded).- Flanagans (\$23). Traditional English

Day # 2: Tour London from Bryanton Court Hotel

Day #3: Catch the Train to York

9 AM

The train ride is about 2-1/2 to 3 Hours and leaves every hour. The only thing 'dicey' is the manipulation of the luggage on the trains. (This will force everyone to travel light). The trains are modern, fast, and supposedly comfortable.

ENGLAND TRIP

The eastern side of England is very populated and there is not much to see (some guide books describe it as boring). The ride will be an experience.

12 PM Arrive at Deans Court Hotel, York

The train station is at Station Road, right next to the City Wall in the North West corner. Our Hotel for the night is the Deans Court Hotel ("D" Voucher). It is inside the wall city across from the York Minister and about a mile from the train station. It is a Victorian House with 40 rooms with baths.

Afternoon: Tour the York Minister.

The York Minister is the largest Gothic Church in England. While at the Minister you will tour the *Chapter House*, the *Undercroft Museum and Treasury*, the *Crypt* and the *Great Central Tower*.

Evening:

You can dine in the Hotel restaurant or venture out. I would suggest the *Hudson's-Below Stairs*. It is a Victorian Hotel about a five minute walk from the Hotel. It serves traditional roast beef and Yorkshire pudding and is moderately priced.

Day #4: Back on the Train to Edinburgh, Scotland

8-9AM: Be packed and catch the Hotel Breakfast

9AM: Catch the train to Edinburgh. Again we have another 3 Hr ride on the train.

12PM: Arrive in Edinburgh. The train stops at Waverly Station which is on the north east side of Old Edinburgh which is a short drive to our hotel. We will pick up two Ford Taurus (or comparable) at the train station. This arrangement allows us to break into two groups if the desire should arise and participate in ~~different activities~~.

The Tourist Information Center is in Waverly Station so we can pick up details for the afternoon tours. There are both escorted and bus tours.

Our stay is at the Brunnsfield Hotel (\$132.75 to be paid in England in Pound Sterling). It is a bed & breakfast, close to the city center. A Georgian Building, it has ten rooms with a shower.

Afternoon:

There are a number of options for the afternoon from touring to playing golf. There are 20 golf courses near downtown Edinburgh, since Scotland is the birthplace of golf. Braids United course just south of downtown welcomes visitors (tele# 031-447-6666). One member of the group has expressed interest in a game of golf while in Scotland. I could not find any escorted tours at this time, so you are on your own to visit the various options in downtown Edinburgh.

The main attraction is the *Edinburgh Castle* (\$7.50) which sits on a hill overlooking the city. There are several features of interest in the castle that will probably take a couple of hours to see. A light lunch can be also had at the castle. After the castle there are too many options from which to choose. Everyone is on their own.

Evening:

After dinner we might try the *Ghost and Ghouls Tour of the Royal Mile* (preferably by Mercat Tours). This is two hour walking tour down the royal mile which ends up at pub for a *wee dram* before bed. There are also Pub Tours and Murder & Mystery Tours.

ENGLAND TRIP

Day #5: Destination by Car: North Wales Area. Stay in Chester at Queens Court

8AM: Be up for Breakfast. This feature is part Bed and Breakfast experience.

9:30AM: Break Camp. We have about 8 hours on the road through the North Country (a.k.a. the Lake District). There is nothing particular worth 'targeting' in this area. Historically, there is Hadrian's Wall, but there is not much left of it and it is hard to get to. If anyone wants, we can schedule a stop at Haltwhistle (best place to view the wall). Otherwise, it is a somewhat leisurely (we have 250 miles to cover in 8 hours) drive through the area where the English go on vacation.

5:30PM: Arrive at Queens Court Hotel in England on the north east corner of Wales (prepaid).

Day #6: Tour North Wales, return to Queens Court

8-9AM: Breakfast

9AM: Today's tour is a loop around the northwestern coast of Wales (120 miles). It is normally a 2 day tour. We only have one day. We will drive southwest (A494) from Chester to Ruthin continuing to A5. Then we will drive west to Betws-y-Coed (approximately 60 miles). It is a popular inland resort set among forested lands and magnificent mountains. There are numerous bridges, waterfalls, and river pools with walks. The Swallow Falls is one of the most famous of all tourist attractions.

10:30AM: Drive southwest to Blaenau Ffestiniog and to the Llechwedd Slate Caverns where they have the Deep Mine Tour.

11PM: Next We drive to the coast to momentarily view Portmerion, which was used for the setting of the TV Series The Prisoner. This town is an Italian garden village created to show that development is possible without destroying a beautiful site.

12PM: Head North out of Portmerion to Porthmadog then to Sygun Copper mine. ~~They have guided tours of this mine but we don't have time to stop.~~ We will stop at Llanberis. They have several narrow-gauge train, including a 40 minute trip along the shores of Llyn Padarn and the start of the Snowdon Mountain Railway, the only public rack and pinion railways that climbs 3000ft to the summit of the mountain in less than 5 minutes.

2PM: Next stop is the Caernarfon Castle. The castle can be toured and there are museums inside. Unfortunately we only have time for a "look-see".

3PM: Drive along the Northern coast of Wales to the town of Conwy. Here we will spend a couple of hours touring the distinctive Conwy Castle with its cluster of towers and exhibits inside.

5PM Head back, due east to Chester on A55 (45 miles)

Day #7: Leave Chester, next stop Ludlow in the Cotswold Area

8-9AM: Breakfast

9AM: Leave the INN and drive south to A483 to Wrexham. Continue on A5 to Shrewsbury to A49 and follow it to Ludlow. This trip is a 150 miles along the border between England and Wales with a few stops along the way. We have some time. 5 miles off the direct route is Llangollen which may be worth a stop.

9:30 AM Stop at Llandgollen. The things to visit are the Canal Museum with the horse drawn boat along the canal and the Llandgollen Railway.

11AM Drive by Clirk, the site of an imposing castle across the valley from England. Area is nicknamed "little Switzerland".

12PM Stop at Shrewsbury England, one of England's most important medieval towns. There are numerous things to see in Shrewsbury and we will spend the afternoon here. Many of the streets are closed to cars, so the visit will be on foot.

ENGLAND TRIP

5PM Leave for Ludlow. Ludlow is described as the most beautiful small town of England, due to its Medieval Georgian and Victorian buildings. It is also the home of the **Ludlow Castle**. Built in 1085 it is a massive red stone fortress that is now in ruin. There are escorted tours of the castle for \$3.50.

6PM Arrive at our INN in Ludlow, Dinham Hall. It is a converted 1792 Town House with 14 rooms near the Castle ("C" Voucher)

Day #8: Leave Ludlow, next Inn is in Chipping Campden.

8-9AM Breakfast

9AM: Leave the Inn. The route is down A49 to Leominster, then A44 to Worcester, then A422 out of Worcester to A46 and then into Stratford-upon-Avon, birthplace of Shakespeare. The trip is about 60 miles long.

10:30AM Stop at Stratford-upon-Avon, England's version of Gatlinburg. Tour the city. Start at the Shakespeare Center and pick up a ticket to tour the five Shakespeare Trust properties in the area. At night the Royal Shakespeare Company stages plays. We will be staying about 15 miles away from Stratford-upon-Avon, so those of you who wish to see one of these plays can return in the evening.

2:30PM Head-out on B4632 to Chipping Campden. It only takes a half an hour, so there is time after we arrive to tour some of the nearby towns, such as Buckland, Winchcombe, and Oxford.

3PM Check into the Noel Arms Hotel. This Inn was built for foreign wool traders in the 14th century and is the oldest inn in town (26 rooms) ("C" Voucher).

3:30PM to 5:30 PM Break-up into two groups and go tour the town of your choose, or stay put and rest.

Buckland is listed as a visit because it has special interest for a member of the group. Its claim to fame is the Hailes Abbey, where the old Cistern ruins stand alongside the 12-th century parish church where in 1270 a small jar of blood, supposedly that of Christ, was given to the abbey and made it a center for religious pilgrimage.

Oxford is about a half hour drive from Chipping Campden and is the home of some of the oldest colleges and universities in the Western world. Other than to say that you went to Oxford there is not much for a tourist to do in Oxford. So the trip is mostly "look see".

Evening:

Some of the group may wish to drive back to Stratford and see a Shakespearean Play.

Day #9: Leave Chipping Campden and head back into Southern Wales.

8-9AM Breakfast

9AM Leave Inn. The plan for the morning is a leisurely drive through Cheltenham, Gloucester, the Forest of Dean, Coleford, the Clearwell Caves, cross the bridge at Chepstow, Berkley Castle, go through Bristol and stop at Bath. It is about a 50 mile drive.

Cheltenham is a historic health resort on a much smaller scale than Bath. No Stop is planned.

The primary points of interest in Gloucester are the **Gloucester Cathedral** and the **National Waterways Museum**. the group may wish to make a short stop to examine this sites in more detail.

The **Forest of Dean** is supposed to have an appeal of being "strange", whatever that means. There is a small Heritage center in Upper Sudley that tells the history of the area. A stop will depend on the interest of the group.

Coleford and **Clearwell Caves** have interest because of it is a recreational area with underground iron mines that have been worked from Roman times to 1945. They can be toured.

ENGLAND TRIP

Berkley Castle is perfectly preserved and built in 1153. It is described as everyone's ideal castle (whatever that means). A Norman castle, it is the site of the gruesome murder of King Edward II in 1327. It is likely to be something everyone would like to tour.

12:00PM: Arrive in Bath.

Bath is famous for its hot mineral springs (116 deg F) that the Romans used in the first century as a health spa. Almost the entire Roman bath complex has been excavated and the remains of swimming pools, saunas, and Turkish Baths and the Temple to Minerva can be view. There a numerous places to visit in Bath. We will spend the afternoon on a "leg" tour.

4:00PM Leave Bath and drive to our Inn for the Night, The Red Lion Inn, in Salisbury. It is 40 miles away and about an hour drive.

5PM: Check in to The Red Lion Inn for three (3) nights ("D" Voucher). It is a former coaching inn with parts of the building dating back to 1320. There are 56 rooms and we can get either modern or antique style rooms. This part of England is full of historical sites. We will be using this Inn as a base to tour the area.

Day #10: King Arthur and the Round Table Tour (with some extra history thrown in.)

8AM: We have about 250 miles of driving to we must leave as early as possible so grab a quick breakfast and get on the road. Drive 60 miles to Exeter on A303.

9:30AM Arrive in Exeter. Get on B3212 and drive 20 miles though **Dartmoor National Park**. We will drive through Dartmoor Forest which was the setting for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's, Sherlock Holmes thriller, The Hound of the Baskervilles. This is wet land.

10:15AM Stop At **Buckland Abbey**, a Cistercian monastery which became the home of Sir Francis Drake. It is full of momentos of Drake and the Spanish Armada. If interesting (it is a recommended stop) give it a quick tour. (\$5 a head).

11:15AM Head for harbor area in Plymouth. We will stop at the Mayflower Steps. The Mayflower Stone marks the exact spot where the Pilgrims embarked in 1620.

12PM Head for **Tingel Head** on the western coast. The castle here is reported to be the birth place of King Arthur. We will tour is then climb down to the beach and tour **Merlin's Cave**. As you might suspect this town is full of tourist junk. Everyone might wish to have an Excalibur for lunch.

1:30PM Head north along the Cornwall coast to Glastonbury. It is 60 mile trip and we don't have time to do more than just take in the scenery.

3:00PM Arrive in Glastonbury. This town is identified with Avalon the paradise into which King Arthur was born after his death. It is the burial place of Arthur and Guinevere. The town is also the legendary burial place of the Holy Grail. There are ruins that can be visited with a little climbing.

4:30PM Next stop **Cadbury Castle** which is five miles away. It is the site of Camelot.

5:30 PM Head Back to Salisbury. It is about 20 miles away.

Day #11: Pre-historic Sites in the Morning. The Cathedral in the Afternoon.

8-9AM Breakfast

9AM Head for **Stonehenge**. Everybody is familiar with this site. The only unfortunately thing is that visitors can get only with 10 or 15 yards of the monument. At other less famous, but equally interesting sites in Avebury and **Maiden Castle** we can get among the rocks.

ENGLAND TRIP

10AM Avebury is 15 miles to the north and go to Silbury Hill. It is a man made 130 ft high mount that dates back to 2500BC. Then go to Avebury Monument which has three stone circles like Stonehenge. It predates stonehenge by 200 years. This site we can visit, "up close and personal."

11:30AM Now drive 60 mile to the south to **Maiden Castle**. After **Stonehenge** it is the most extraordinary pre-Roman archeological site in England.

1PM Head Back to Salisbury.

2PM Tour the **Salisbury Cathedral**. It is a dominating, towering cathedral whose interior is lined with lancet windows and sculpted tombs of crusaders and other medieval heroes. The cloisters are the largest in England. One of the four original copies of the *Magna Carta* is on display. There are several house within the cathedral which are also worth touring.

5:30 Head to a Pub.

Day #12: Leave for the South East Side

8-8:30AM: Breakfast

8:30AM Go 15 miles to the east an stop at **Winchester Cathedral**. Winchester is among the most historic of all English cities. Much of that history can be appreciated with a tour of the cathedral which is the world's best surviving examples of Norman architecture. A view blocks away is the medieval Great Hall. It is full of history (free).

12:30PM Head south and along the coast to Ashford. This is a long 120 mile drive.

3:PM Check into the Forte Posthouse for 2 Days. (requires payment of 49 pounds in Pound Sterling)

3:30PM There are now too Options: Stay Put an rest in the Hotel or visit some of the neighbor hood castles, specifically **Hever Castle**, **Ightham Mote** and **Leeds Castle**. They are within 15 to 20 miles away.

Hever Castle is the family home of Anne Boleyn. It was purchased by Astor who built an entire Tudor village and had gardens laid out itliane style with a large topiary maze.

Ightham Mote is an example of a small medieval manor house complete with a moat.

Leeds Castle a fairy-tale stronghold commanding two small islands. It was converted by King Henry the VIII from a fortress to a grand palace full of a fine collection of paintings and furniture.

Day #13: Tour Canterbury, and Dover.

8-9AM Breakfast

9AM: Canterbury is 10 miles to the east. Drive there and spend the morning touring. **ChristChurch Cathedral** is the site of the muirder of Thomas Becket and the focal point of the city. Like the other cathedrals it is full of history and will take at least two hours to tour. There are numerous other sites that will take us a couple more hours to examine.

1PM Drive to Dover. There is nothing worthwhile in the city. But we will go to the **Dover Castle** and view the famous white cliff and the **Hellfire Caves**.

3PM Drive to the **Chunnel**. The tunnel terminal is in Folkestone. We will visit the **Eurotunnel Exhibition Center**.

5PM Return to the Hotel.