



Through the Mists of Time...

Sacred Sites in England's magical south west

10 - 20 SEPTEMBER 2012

With **Donna L. Barnard and Linda Marson**

DAY ONE: Monday 10 September

London to Oxford

Today we travel by train from London to Oxford, home of the oldest university in England, the birth place of Alice Liddell and the inspiration for Lewis Carroll's much loved novel 'Alice in Wonderland.' The afternoon is free to explore the garden where Alice played and the college where Charles Dodgson (Lewis Carroll) taught. Oxford is renowned for the ghosts who haunt its streets and buildings, so tonight we join a ghost tour where we have a chance to meet some of the city's more infamous residents!

Overnight: Oxford (B)

DAY TWO: Tuesday 11 September

Sacred sites around Oxford

This morning we visit the Vale of the White Horse, where we find the mysterious White Horse of Uffington, a creature of bronze age



origin whose actual meaning is shrouded in mystery. We also visit Dragon Hill, rumoured to be the site where St George slew the dragon. From there we walk the short distance to Wayland's Smithy, a Neolithic burial chamber, and

legendary home of the Anglo Saxon Smith God. After lunch, we visit the Rollright Stones (pictured above) to hear strange legends and try some dowsing, before returning to Oxford.

Overnight: Oxford (B)

DAY THREE: Wednesday 12 September

Oxford to Salisbury

Today we travel by express coach from Oxford to Salisbury, a journey of about 8½ hours. Salisbury is south of the Salisbury Plain, an area of about 780 square kilometres, which contains numerous archeological sites, the most famous of which is Stonehenge.

The city itself is full of historic landmarks, including the 13th century cathedral which has the tallest spire in the country. Choral evensong takes place in the cathedral every day and entry is free. You might also like to visit Downton Moot, an 18th century landscape garden in a lovely setting beside the Avon River.

Overnight: Salisbury (B)

A journey of spiritual discovery

Imagine times long past, when wizards and faeries brought magic to the land, when brave knights embarked on heroic quests and minstrels immortalised their deeds in song. In your mind's eye, watch a kaleidoscope of scenes unfold on a landscape of craggy cliffs, moors, mysterious Tors, stone circles and barren heaths. "Aahh...if only I had lived then," you say.

Maybe you were there in a past life and the land is calling you to explore your spiritual heritage by journeying to the sacred sites of England's magical south west.

Travel back through the mists of time to explore the messages places such as Stonehenge, Glastonbury Tor and sacred sites from Salisbury Plain to Cornwall have for you at this time in your life.

As we travel this landscape of legend, we let the tarot tell our stories.

We use the cards to track our own journey and those of our fellow travellers. What sustains us spiritually and how do we connect with it? Where are we on our quest for our Holy Grail?



Spiritual activities

The journey has a pagan theme with rituals in stone circles to honour the land and the ancestors, and to celebrate changes, challenges and landmark moments in the lives of those who come on the journey.

Your guides are Donna L. Barnard and Linda Marson. Donna will share her knowledge of the enchanted landscape and facilitate rituals. Linda will focus on tarot activities and lead guided meditations.

DAY FOUR: Thursday 13 September

Salisbury Plain

Today we explore sites on the Salisbury Plain. We start with West Kennet Long Barrow, one of the largest burial chambers in Britain, from which over 40 bodies have been recovered. A powerful site strongly guarded by the local land Spirits, it is still actively used for ritual work. Across the road is the enigmatic Silbury Hill, the largest man made mound in Britain. A short drive brings us to the village of Avebury, itself contained within the remains of two stone circles. This area has strong links with paganism and witchcraft, and is also renowned for its crop circle activity.



Overnight: Salisbury (B)

DAY FIVE: Friday 14 September

Salisbury to Glastonbury

Up early this morning for one of the highlights of the tour– a ritual with a Druid priestess inside the stone circle at Stonehenge. Then it's on the road again – to magical Glastonbury, identified in legend as Avalon, the place to which King Arthur was transported in a barge after being wounded in his last battle on Salisbury Plain.



Arthur's grave is said to have been discovered at Glastonbury some 600 years later in the reign of Henry II. We avail ourselves of the local shuttle bus which takes us to the Glastonbury Tor, a place steeped in folklore and legend where the veil between the worlds is thin, as well as

Chalice Well and gardens. We visit the magnificent Gog and Magog, the ancient oaks who stand as sentinels for an ancient Druid ceremonial pathway, and tonight we gather for a sacred ritual to honour the guardians of Avalon.

Overnight: Glastonbury (B)

DAY SIX: Saturday 15 September

Glastonbury to Tintagel

After a morning free to explore the awe inspiring Glastonbury Abbey, and the town's fascinating array of shops, we depart for the Tintagel/Boscastle region on the roughly hewn Cornish coast.

Overnight: Tintagel or Boscastle (B)

Your Guides



Donna L. Barnard (left) and Linda Marson are both passionate about offering people spiritual experiences that are catalysts for self-discovery and transformation.

Linda has led spiritual adventure tours in Peru and Australia and travelled through England's south-west on several occasions.

"In 2010, I saw the veil between the worlds dissolve before my eyes at St Nectan's Kieve - an experience that inspired me to plan this tour. An account of what happened in this magical place is on my website at www.tarotjourney.com.au/england.html.

Just as I was wondering how to organise the adventure, along came Donna saying she would like to join forces with me on a sacred sites tour of the UK! This partnership was meant to be. It goes without saying that we're both excited at the prospect of sharing our love for this part of the world with you."

Both Linda and Donna are professional members of the Tarot Guild of Australia. Donna is also an experienced astrologer and palmist, as well as a practising wise woman, initiated priestess and witch in the British Craft tradition.

Donna has journeyed to the UK several times, and is always drawn back by the mysteries of this magical land. As she says, "It is indeed a coming home." Visit Donna's website (www.donnabarnard.com) where she has information on the mysterious White Horse of Uffington - one of the sites we visit.



Donna by one of the many standing stones at Avebury.

DAY SEVEN: Sunday 16 September

Tintagel and environs

This morning we head to the beautiful, fairy glade of St Nectan's Kieve. Here King Arthur's knights are said to have bathed before seeking the Holy Grail. This is the place to ask for a blessing or a wish, and we will leave a natural offering at the site.

We continue along the road to Boscastle for lunch and in the afternoon visit the Museum of Witchcraft, which houses the world's largest collection of witch-related artefacts in the world. Many important figures in the English occult scene including Gerald B. Gardner and Janet and Stewart Farrar have donated items from their private collections. The museum and Boscastle itself were largely destroyed by flood in 2004, and it is a testament to the villagers that the town has not only survived but thrived.

Overnight: Tintagel or Boscastle (B)

DAY EIGHT: Monday 17 September

Tintagel to Bodmin Moor

It's easy to wind the clock back as you wander the ruins of the castle fortress at Tintagel. Here, according to legend, Arthur was conceived through a trick performed by Merlin, who then became Arthur's guardian until the day he drew the sword Excalibur from the stone and was declared king. Carved into rocky cliffs below the fortress lies a cave said to be haunted by Merlin. Tide permitting, we will explore the cave.



After lunch, we head to Bodmin Moor and Dozmary Pool, where legends tell of the return of Excalibur to the Lady of the Lake. A short drive onward brings us to the strange granite formations of the Cheesewring and the Hurlers.

Overnight: Jamaica Inn, made famous by Daphne Du Maurier as the haunt of the smugglers, pirates and wreckers of the Cornish coast. **(B)**

DAY NINE: Tuesday 18 September

Bodmin Moor to Yeovil

From Bodmin Moor we drive a short distance to Tavistock in Devon, on the edge of Dartmoor National Park. Close by is Buckland Abbey, the home of Sir Francis Drake. His ghost is said to still reside there, and on moonlit, windswept nights he may be seen commanding a black hearse across the Moor. We take a look at the Abbey before heading to Yeovil where we spend the night.

Overnight: Yeovil (B)

DAY TEN: Wednesday 19 September

Yeovil

Tying together our Arthurian experiences, we visit the site of Cadbury Castle, long believed to be a probable site for Camelot. Somewhere nearby, we'll find a spot for a ritual to close our journey.

Overnight: Yeovil (B)

DAY ELEVEN: Thursday 20 September

Yeovil to London

After breakfast, we say goodbye to this wonderful, mysterious and magical part of Britain and make our way by express coach to London, a journey of just under five hours.



Chalice Well is one of Britain's most ancient wells, nestling in the Vale of Avalon between Glastonbury Tor and Chalice Hill. Surrounded by beautiful gardens and orchards it is a living sanctuary in which visitors can experience the quiet healing of this sacred place. For over two thousand years this has been a place where people have gathered to drink the waters and find solace, peace and inspiration.



A typical late 19th century Wise Woman's cottage is one of the many displays at the Museum of Witchcraft in Boscastle. Joan sits at her table staring into the fishing float she uses as a crystal ball to see the future. Tarot cards are laid out on the table from her last reading. As a 21st century tarot reader, Linda Marson couldn't resist having her photo taken in front of Joan's window!



The waterfall at St Nectan's Glen
Saint Nectan, a 6th century holyman, had a small retreat at the head of this glen, a few miles north of Tintagel. He died at the hands of thieves, and tradition says that wherever Nectan's blood fell, foxgloves grew. There is still a custom today of taking foxgloves to his well on his feast day.

Cost

\$3,900 AUD per person, twin share
Single supplement: \$805 per person

Deposit: \$500AUD, payable upon booking

Early bird rate:

\$3,600 AUD per person, twin share

Pay \$500 deposit to secure a place and the balance by 8 June.

Price includes:

- tarot and other spiritual activities facilitated by Donna Barnard and Linda Marson
- 10 nights accommodation in comfortable hotels or B&B guest houses
- 10 continental breakfasts (B)
- land transportation (rail, coach, taxi, minibus)
- *Ticket, Passport and Tarot Cards* (book and DVD)
- entrance fees to Oxford Ghost Tour, Stonehenge, Chalice Well, Tintagel Castle, Museum of Witchcraft, St Nectan's Kieve, Cadbury Castle, Buckland Abbey.

Not included:

- international airfares and departure taxes
- tips
- services and meals not specified.

Payment options

- Online through PayPal using a credit or debit card (an account with PayPal is not required)
- direct deposit in Australia into the Spiritual Adventure Tours bank account

Account name: Spiritual Adventure Tours
BSB: 062611
A/c no: 1044 8215

- Australian cheque or money order payable to Spiritual Adventure Tours.



Above: The village of Boscastle in north Cornwall.

Right: St Michael's Tower on Glastonbury Tor.

Tour numbers and bookings

As with all tours, minimum numbers are required. For this trip we need at least **eight** spiritually adventurous people!

Refunds

If the tour is cancelled due to insufficient numbers, your deposit or full payment will be refunded in full.

If you cancel a reservation for a tour that is going ahead, the following terms apply:

- Prior to 10 July 2012: refund of monies paid less \$50 cancellation fee per person
- Between 11 July and 3 September 2012: 75% of tour cost forfeited
- Between 7 and 3 days prior to departure: 90% of tour cost forfeited
- 72 hours: no refund of tour cost.

Insurance

Adequate and valid travel insurance is compulsory. Spiritual Adventure Tours does not accept liability for any loss, damage or injury which you may directly or indirectly suffer in connection with your participation in the tour. Your travel insurance must cover accidents, injury, illness and death medical expenses, including any related to pre-existing medical conditions, emergency repatriation (including helicopter rescue and air ambulance where applicable) and personal liability. We also recommend it covers cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. You must carry proof of insurance with you and produce it if reasonably requested by the tour leaders.

We strongly recommend that you organise insurance prior to payment to cover you for unforeseen circumstances that may result in you cancelling your reservation.



