

HEARTCYCLE BICYCLE TOURING CLUB ENGLAND – Magical History Tour 2019

- Dates:** Orientation meeting: June 16, 2019. Riding: June 17 – 25, 2019 (with two optional riding days). Departure June 26.
- Coordinators:** Graham Hollis, Fred Yu
- Distance:** Approximately 300 miles over 8 riding days
- Rating:** Intermediate.
- Riders:** 18 (maximum with coordinators) *No Single Supplement.*
- Price:** Total: \$3,340 \$800 at registration. Balance due by April 1, 2019
- Cancellation:** *\$50 prior to March 1, 2019 50% of deposit forfeited for cancelation between March 1 and April 1, 2019. 100% of tour payment forfeited for cancelation after April 1, unless a replacement can be found, then 50% of deposit.*
TRAVEL INSURANCE IS ADVISED.

OVERVIEW

We start in Oxford, and travel in the ancient Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Wessex through the quintessentially English Cotswolds and the Bard's birthplace of Stratford. We then head Southwest to the Roman city of Bath, further back in back in time to Stonehenge and south to Dorset and Corfe Castle finishing in the New Forest, the ancient hunting grounds of Kings. Shuttle to Southampton train station for departure. History is everywhere, supplemented by idyllic scenery, colorful English gardens, literary references and plentiful good local beer. NOTE: Matched singles generally will be in twin beds.

ITINERARY

Day 0, June 16 2019. Assemble in Oxford, the University city of dreaming spires for a guided walking tour of the city in the afternoon, meet our bikes and our guide for the tour.

Day 1, June 17. From Oxford we bike out into the Countryside to the country home of the Dukes of Marlborough and Winston Churchill, Blenheim Palace, one of several World Heritage Sites we will be visiting. We will sneak in the back gate to visit the Palace and the Capability Brown inspired gardens. The afternoon ride takes us to through Cotswold villages (and pubs) finishing in the market town of Moreton-in-Marsh and our hotel for the next 2 nights.



Day 2, June 18. We ride to the beautiful gardens at Hidcote, and/or the idiosyncratic gardens of Kiftsgate right next door. We then ride down a disused railway line right into the heart of Stratford itself. We intend to arrange a trip to see a Royal Shakespeare Company play in Stratford (extra charge).



Day 3, June 19. The tour then winds its way through the rolling countryside of the Cotswolds, taking in some of the most bucolic towns and villages including Chipping Campden, Bourton-on-the-Water, The Slaughters, Snowhill and the majestic Broadway Tower. The day ends in the stunning Cotswold town of Burford.



Day 4, June 20. We cycle from Burford through the Southern Cotswolds, past Cirencester and then onto Tetbury (where we stay for the next 2 nights) through some of the wonderful villages that criss-cross the magnificent landscape. We also visit the most beautiful village in England (according to Henry Ford), Bibury and onto Bath. We ride into Bath, via a 2000 year old Roman road! and take a full tour of the Roman Baths, the historic pump rooms, Jane Austen's house and the majestic Royal Crescent. Bath also has great shopping!



Day 5, June 21. A day off with options for extra time in Bath, Prince Charles' Gardens and the National Arboretum.

Day 6, June 22. We tap into our inner druid and van to Stonehenge (cycling is not advisable) which is an undoubted highlight of the tour. Entry fee is included. From the monument we transfer to Cranbourne Chase and cycle into Dorset via Blandford Forum ending at the stunning Corfe Castle. Right next door is our hotel for the net 2 nights.



Day 7, June 23. We ride to the beautiful Lulworth Cove on Dorset's Jurassic coast and then onto the majestic sea arch at Durdle Door. We also visit the wonderful town of Wareham and the archetypal seaside town of Swanage.



Day 8, June 24. From the hotel, we head through the Dorset countryside, over the chain ferry and into Sandbanks, with its London priced properties and into Poole. We bike through Bournemouth along well marked bike paths and disused railway lines and into the New Forest to our final hotel in Burley.

Day 9, June 25. The New Forest is the ancient hunting forest of the Royals and home to thousands of free roaming ponies, cows, deer and donkeys. We bike on speed reduced roads and byways through the Southern half of this ancient landscape of moors, heathland and forest, visiting its beautiful villages for coffee and lunch.

Day 10, June 26. We offer a half day of biking through the New Forest and depart via shuttle to Southampton station with excellent rail service to London and elsewhere.

The average daily distance will be 30 – 50 miles. Most days we will have three distance options in the range 30 – 70 miles. Hardcopy route maps and Garmin/Smartphone style maps will be provided. We will discuss the options for the rides at the daily briefings. The terrain should be rolling hills, nothing more. Roads in England are generally very well maintained. English motorists are typically patient and courteous toward cyclists, but they do like to travel quickly. Do remember to ride on the left.

We will have a 17 passenger sag wagon with driver and bike trailer to support us for the tour. We will also use the van for luggage transfer. While the van will carry water and snacks we won't provide lunch or sag stops. However, there will be ample opportunities to select good coffee/tea shoppes and pubs for lunch. The weather should be mild but with ever present risk of rain, though all day deluges are unlikely.

Hotels are generally 4+ stars as rated by trip Adviser. See attached for examples <https://www.cotswold-inns-hotels.co.uk>.

As with all our European tours we expect people to enjoy the local food, drink, customs and language. Some of which will be very familiar. Two group dinners and all breakfasts are included.

The cost of bicycle rental (Giant Contend road bikes) including helmets, is included in the tour price. You MUST provide your own pedals and shoes. Each bicycle will come with a pump, repair kit (tube, tools, patch kit, pump), lock and water bottle. E-bikes will also be available. All breakfasts, two group dinners and cost of Oxford walking tour and entry to Stonehenge are included.

Plan to arrive in Oxford by midday on June 16th, if not the day before. Both Oxford and Southampton have good rail service to London

You should arrange your own accommodation before and after the tour. We can help with hotel booking if you want to arrive in Oxford before the tour.

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