

ARTHUR'S BRITAIN TOUR - Summer 2005

Proposed Itinerary

Day	Date	Morning	Afternoon	Accommodations
Sat		Arrive London Heathrow Obtain vehicle(s)	Winchester Cathedral	TI-Winchester Services TL-Sutton Scotney
Sun		Stonehenge Woodhenge	Avebury Stone Circles	TL-Beckington TL-Warminster
Mon		Glastonbury	Cadbury	TL Okehampton E-W
Tue		Tintagel	St. Michael's Mount Land's End	TI-Bradley Stoke
Wed		Castell Coch Llandaff Cathedral Caerphilly	Caerleon Caerwent Chepstow Caldicot	Stoke area
Thu		Wedgewood factory Travel to the north	Penrith Carlisle Dovecote Farm Hadrian's Wall	TI-Carlisle TL-Carlisle
Fri		Caerlaverock Sweetheart Abbey Doune Castle	Stirling Castle Wallace Monument Bannockburn	TI-Stirling TL-Stirling
Sat		Rosslyn Chapel Holy Isle	Edinburgh	TI-Stirling TL-Stirling
Sun		Dumbarton Castle Glencoe Urquhart Castle Loch Ness	Inverness Culloden	TI-Stirling TL-Stirling
Mon		Travel to the south	Oxford	TI-Oxford TL-Oxford
Tue		Windsor Castle	British Museum Shopping in London	TL-Heston Heathrow
Wed		Leave London Gatwick		Arrive Salt Lake City

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Saturday

Our group arrives at London's Gatwick Airport, clears immigration and customs, then departs by minivan for our first Arthurian site - Winchester. Winchester was the ancient royal capitol of England, thought by some to be an archetype for Arthur's Camelot. Winchester Castle houses the Round Table (actually built for Henry VI, who, based on his Welsh ancestry, tried to exploit the Arthurian legends for his political purposes). An early evening on our first day will help to lessen the effects of jetlag.

Sunday

Merlin, Arthur's advisor and mentor, is reported to have magically moved an existing Irish stone circle to its present site at Stonehenge. Modern archaeologists discount the Arthurian elements, but it is still a haunting and mysterious place, and our first stop of the day. We also visit Woodhenge, the site of another circle, originally made of timbers, and the Avebury Stone Circles, which has part of a village within the stone circle.

Monday

We spend most of this day in Somerset, the "Summer Country", a land once comprised of marshes and fens. Glastonbury, our primary destination, was originally an island in this wild place. The Abbey, traditionally founded by Joseph of Arimathea, achieved fame as Arthur's burial place when a lead grave marker was discovered by the monks in medieval times. Other sites include the Tor and Chalice Well, known for its healing powers. In the late 60's, Glastonbury became the Haight-Ashbury district for Britain, and the influence of that era is still strong within the town, which includes several shops catering to New Age and esoteric interests. If the weather and time permits, we will visit Cadbury Hill, the site of an important Dark Age fortification thought by some to be Arthur's palace, Camelot.

Tuesday

Cornwall has had a long connection with the Arthurian legend. Sites we will visit include: Tintagel (Arthur's birthplace), Dozmary Pool (where Arthur received Excalibur from the Lady of the Lake), St. Michael's Mount (scene of one of Arthur's battles, and a near-perfect replica of France's Mont St. Michel), and Land's End (where you can still supposedly see Guinevere's lost kingdom of Lyonesse beneath the waves).

Wednesday

The Welsh also claim Arthur for their own. As time and weather permit, we will visit Castell Coch (a Victorian fantasy recreation of a medieval castle), Llandaff Cathedral (thought to be the burial place of Merlin, known in Wales as St. Dubricius), Caerphilly Castle (containing the most complete water defenses in Europe), Caerleon (Arthur's Welsh Palace), Caerwent (Roman fortress), Chepstow and Caldicot Castles, and Tintern Abbey.

Thursday

We begin our trip to the North, visiting the Wedgewood factory, Penrith, Carlisle (thought by some to be Camelot), and Dovecote Farm (the site of Arthur's last battle, Camlann).

Friday

Crossing over into Scotland, we visit Caerlaverock Castle (thought by some to be Arthur's birthplace) and Sweetheart Abbey in the morning, then continue on up to Doune Castle (Monty Python's stand-in for Camelot). The rest of the day is spent at Stirling, where we visit the Castle (another candidate for Camelot), the Wallace Monument (the statue doesn't look like Mel Gibson at all), and Bannockburn (site of the Robert the Bruce's victory over the English army).

Saturday

We visit Rosslyn Chapel, just south of Edinburgh, then travel to the eastern coast of Scotland, where we enjoy the Holy Isle (Lindisfarne). Coming back to Edinburgh, we view Guinevere's Monument, Arthur's Seat, Holy Rood and Edinburgh Castle. Some time will be available for shopping.

Sunday

We spend the day driving through the Highlands, visiting Glencoe, Urquhart Castle (literally on Loch Ness), Inverness, Culloden, Dumbarton Rock, and return to Stirling.

Monday

Most of the day is spent traveling back to the South. If time permits, we will drive through Oxford on the way to the London.

Tuesday

Windsor Castle has been much in the news in recent years, primarily because of the devastating fire in St. George's Hall. The repairs have been completed, and most of the castle will be on view to us as we visit it. Of special interest to us is St. George's Chapel, the home of the Knights of the Garter. This order was founded by Edward III in 1372, using the Knights of the Round Table as a model. The rest of the day may be spent shopping in London.

Wednesday

Finally, we return to London's Gatwick Airport, and begin our long flight back to Salt Lake City

NOTES

All events and places listed in this preliminary itinerary are dependent on weather and road conditions. In some cases, the places listed are the choices from which the final itinerary will be selected.

The tour is being planned for Summer 2005. Final date selection will be made in late spring. At that time, the cost per participant will also be announced.

Accommodations will be based on double occupancy.

Directors of the 2005 tour will be William R. Ward and John M. Kitzmiller, II, experienced local historians, heraldic experts, folklorists, and antiquaries.

For further information, contact the tour directors at:

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Illustration of the Round Table at Winchester Castle is by Felicity Young, and appears in her book (co-authored with Michael Williams), *King Arthur in the West*, Bodmin, Cornwall: Bossiney Books, 1993.