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A Beaders' Tour of Great Britain

Led by Olya Yampolsky

August 27 – September 7, 2020

With An Optional Extension Tour to Ireland & Scotland

Day 1 – Thurs. Aug. 27:

Depart USA, Arrive in London

Board your international flight today, bound for England. Depart from Washington Dulles Int'l Airport at 8:30am on United Airlines flight UA 122. On arrival at London's Heathrow International Airport at 8:55pm, our representative will meet the group at the Arrivals Hall. Transfer by private coach to your London city-center hotel for check-in and overnight.
Cophthorne Tara Hotel, Scarsdale Place, Kensington, London, tel: +44 20 7937-7211

Day 2 – Fri. Aug. 28:

London

The day starts with a visit to the legendary Abbey Road to see the world-famous Abbey Road studios and get a picture on the same zebra crossing (crosswalk) that The Beatles walked across for the iconic album cover. Then on to Piccadilly Circus, Trafalgar Square that commemorates the battle against Napoleon.

The tour hits a royal note as we arrive outside England's most famous residence – Buckingham Palace. We will stop here to see the colorful ceremony of the "Changing of the Guards".

The Queen's Life Guard, mounted on immaculately groomed horses with breastplates shining in the sun, present a stirring sight as they ride through the streets of London to Change the Guard on Horse Guards Parade.

Enjoy some free time for lunch on your own.

After lunch a visit to Westminster Abbey which has been at the heart of British history since the formation of the Abbey by Edward the Confessor in 1065. The Abbey became the coronation church for the English monarchy in 1066, was transformed into the modern stone Abbey in the reign of Henry III and has since been the venue for countless royal events. In modern times the marriage of Prince William and Kate Middleton, the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II and the funerals of the Queen Mother and Princess Diana have etched the Abbey into the common memory of billions around the globe.

From here we view the Houses of Parliament with its most recognized feature "Big Ben" (covered at the moment by scaffoldings). Return to the hotel after the tour for our welcome dinner and your overnight stay.

**** Sites and activities Included on this day: breakfast, accommodation, tour of London by coach with guide, entrances to Westminster Abbey.*

Day 3 – Sat. Aug. 29:

London

Our morning starts with a short journey by coach to the ancient "City of London" with its magnificent buildings and labyrinths alleys. We visit St Paul's Cathedral – the first cathedral

appeared in 607, the 5th in the same place is the masterpiece of the great English architect, Sir Christopher Wren. St Paul's Cathedral is where the wedding of Princess Diana and Prince Charles took place.

From here we pass by Mansion House, the Bank of England and The Old Stock Exchange to Leaden Hall Market a beautiful covered market in the City of London. Under the elegant Victorian roof there are stalls, restaurants, shops and pubs to enjoy.

Free time for lunch.

After lunch, a visit to the Tower of London – a 1000-year-old fortress that hides a past full of torture, execution and major historical events. See the sparkling Crown Jewels, guarded by the Beefeaters and explore the tower that was once a Royal Palace, prison and zoo!

We escape the Tower for a relaxing River Thames Boat Ride and from the boat you will get different and privileged views of some attractions near the Thames, such as Tower Bridge, Millennium Bridge, the St. Paul Cathedral Dome, Big Ben, the London Eye. Dinner is on your own.

**** Sites and activities Included on this day: breakfast, accommodation, tour of London by coach with guide, entrances to St Paul's Cathedral, Tower of London and Boat ride.*

Day 4 – Sun. Aug. 30:

Bournemouth

Early departure to Bournemouth. For the beadworkers in the group, the beadwork course will begin. For the non-beadworkers in the group, enjoy a “Hop on hop off tour” - a fantastic open top double decker bus tour of Poole Bay and the Sandbanks peninsula. The tour will take us to all the main sights with fine views across Poole Bay and Poole Harbor along the way. Check-in to our hotel for an overnight stay. Dinner is on your own.

**** Sites and activities Included on this day: breakfast, accommodation, transfer by coach to Bournemouth and hop on hop off tour of Bournemouth area.*

Hilton Hotel Bournemouth, Terrace Road, Bournemouth, tel: +44 120 280-4775

Day 5 – Mon. Aug. 31:

Bournemouth

2nd day of the beadwork course

The non-beadworker part of the group: We start the day travelling to Abbotsbury, known for its swannery and surviving abbey buildings, including St Catherine's Chapel, a 14th-century pilgrimage chapel that stands on a hill between the village and the coast. Here we visit Subtropical Gardens - Probably one of the best gardens of its type in the world – a magnificent Victorian walled garden set in 20 acres of woodland valley.

Free time for lunch

Then the tour continues with a stroll through the seaside town of Weymouth, with its sandy beach, dotted with colorful beach huts and backed by Georgian houses.

The day will finish with a drive through the Isle of Portland which is a limestone island.

Return to the hotel for our farewell dinner (for this first part of the tour!!) and overnight stay.

**** Sites and activities Included on this day: breakfast, accommodation, tour of Abbotsbury, Weymouth and Isle of Portland by coach with guide, entrance to Subtropical Gardens.*

Day 6 – Tues. Sept. 1:

London or Extension Tour

For those not continuing on the extension tour, transfer to London for your return flight to the USA. Depart on flight UA919, departing Heathrow at 12:15pm, arriving at Dulles at 3:20pm.

Extension Tour to Liverpool, Dublin, Belfast & Edinburgh

Day 6 – Tues. Sept. 1:

Stratford Upon Avon, Liverpool

For those continuing on the extension tour, transfer to Stratford Upon Avon and Liverpool. This morning we travel through the fascinating villages of the Cotswold until we reach Stratford-Upon-Avon. Visit Shakespeare's birthplace and see Anne Hathaway's cottage- a lovely thatched and timbered cottage, where his wife Anne Hathaway was born.

We continue to Liverpool - a city of great tradition, fabulous humor and stunning architecture. Here we will twist and shout at a number of iconic Liverpool locations including The Liver Building, St George's Hall and Albert Dock which contains the Beatles Museum (visit) and Museum of Liverpool. We will also walk through Mathew Street, the home of the world-famous Cavern Club where the Beatles first played to excited local crowds. Dinner is on your own. Overnight in Liverpool.

**** Sites and activities Included on this day: breakfast, accommodation, tour by coach with guide, entrances to Shakespeare's Birthplace.*

Radisson Blu Hotel, 107 Old Hall St., Liverpool, tel: +44 151 966-1500

Day 7 – Wed. Sept. 2:

Dublin

This morning we take a ferry to Ireland - "The Emerald Isle".

Arrival and begin the tour of the city of Dublin, whose history dates back to the Viking era and traces of this historical past are still visible in the alleys of the ancient city. This ancient city has wonderful cathedrals and churches, we see St Patrick's Cathedral and Christ Church, art galleries, museums and historic buildings, but it is known above all for its Georgian squares and its splendid public gardens. Photo stop at Trinity College founded in 1592 by Elizabeth I, with a rich library which boasts the famous, beautifully illuminated, 9th century Book of Kells.

The tour is completed by a stop at the world-famous Guinness Black Beer Store for the "Guinness Experience". Dinner is on your own.

**** Sites and activities Included on this day: breakfast, accommodation, tour of Dublin by coach with guide and ferry crossing.*

Mespil Hotel, 50-60 Mespil Road, Dublin, Ireland, tel: +353 1 488-4600

Day 8 – Thurs. Sept. 3:

Belfast

We depart this morning to Belfast - famous for its industrial past and turbulent history.

The tour will pass by some of the key areas of the city such as Belfast Castle with its prominent position 400 feet above sea level. Its location provides unobstructed views of the city. We will visit the Town Hall with its beautiful Baroque Revival, St Anne's Cathedral, Stormont Parliament – Northern Ireland Parliament (if open), Belfast Peace Wall and Titanic Quarter where we finish the day with a visit to fascinating Titanic Belfast. Dinner is on your own.

**** Sites and activities Included on this day: breakfast, accommodation, tour of Belfast by coach with guide and entrance to Town Hall.*

Europa Hotel Belfast City, Great Victoria Street, Belfast, N. Ireland, tel: +44 28 9027-1066

Day 9 – Fri. Sept. 4:

Belfast

Full day tour to locations of the "Game of Thrones" which will give you a chance to see iconic sites such as Cushendun – with a visit to the cave which featured Melisandre giving birth to the shadow assassin, Ballintoy Harbor, where Theon Greyjoy came back to Pyke Harbor. This is so recognizable there has even been a plaque erected and The Dark Hedges – possibly the most recognizable of the locations where Arya Stark makes her escape down The Kings Road.

The tour will include these as well as other gems of Northern Ireland including Carrick-a-Rede and the Giant's Causeway located along the stunning Antrim coast. Dinner is on your own.

**** Sites and activities Included on this day: breakfast, accommodation, tour by coach with guide, entrances to Giant's Causeway, Cushendun Caves and Carrick-a-Rede.*

Day 10 – Sat. Sept. 5:**Edinburgh**

Transfer to Belfast port to catch the ferry to Cairnryan – Scotland.

Arrive and transfer to Edinburgh for a tour of one of the most beautiful cities in the country. The tour will pass by the 200-year-old "New Town" to learn about the famous scientists, inventors and novelists who lived there. In the "Old Town," we climb the narrow Royal Mile leading us for a photo stop at the jaw-dropping Edinburgh Castle - built on the top of an extinct volcano - and also a view of Holyrood Palace, and St Giles Cathedral. Dinner is on your own.

**** Sites and activities Included on this day: breakfast, accommodation, coach transfer Cairnryan to Edinburgh, tour by coach with guide, ferry crossing and entrances to Edinburgh castle.*

Hilton Edinburgh Carlton Hotel, 19 North Bridge, Edinburgh, tel: +44 131 472-3000

Day 11 – Sun. Sept. 6:**Trossachs – Loch Lomond – Doune Castle**

Full day tour to Trossachs with visit to Doune Castle

We head north and travel past Stirling Castle and to the north is the National Wallace Monument, which commemorates Scotland's great hero William Wallace. You pass close to the location where William Wallace defeated the English army in 1297, and after this to another film location **Doune Castle** for a visit - the Stark family's home of Winterfell.

Then we journey via the outskirts of woodland of the Trossachs to take in breathtaking views of Loch Lomond, Britain's largest expanse of water where many of the adventures of folk hero Rob Roy developed. Return to Edinburgh for our farewell dinner and overnight.

**** Sites and activities Included on this day: breakfast, accommodation, full tour by coach with guide, entrances to Doune Castle.*

Day 12 – Mon. Sept. 7:**Departure**

Free morning in Edinburgh until our transfer to Edinburgh Airport. Depart Edinburgh on flight UA979 at 12:30pm, arriving in Washington at 3:25pm.