



Outline Itinerary

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		Distance/approx. time travelling
Day 1 - 3 (3 nights)	<p>London</p> <p>London is the largest city in Europe. There is so much to see and do; where to start! There are many famous buildings that are a 'must see': The Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, St Paul's Cathedral (climb to the very top if you dare and see out over the city and the river), Buckingham Place, the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben.</p> <p>Guided walks are excellent for getting behind the grand facades into the lanes and alley ways and hearing some fascinating stories! You could take a themed Dickens tour for just your party.</p> <p>Specific literary locations you might like to visit are:</p> <p>The Globe Theatre, an accurate reconstruction of the open air Elizabethan theatre which Shakespeare used for his plays</p> <p>Charles Dickens home which is a museum.</p> <p>The Sherlock Holmes museum at his famous address 221b Baker Street</p>	
Day 4-5 (2 nights)	<p>Bath</p> <p>On your way to Bath you could take the circuitous route to visit Steventon, the village of Jane's Austen birth (sorrowfully the rectory is now demolished but the 12th century church where she worshipped is still there) and Chawton, where she lived and considered to be here home. Her cottage is now the Jane Austen House Museum.</p> <p>The beautiful Georgian city of Bath became popular as a place to take holidays in the 18th century and the magnificent architecture dates mostly from that time. People came to enjoy the Roman baths which were built in the first century. A visit to these is a must.</p> <p>Bath also has a lovely abbey with a particularly fine vaulted roof.</p> <p>Visit of course the Jane Austen Centre.</p>	
Day 6-7 (2 nights)	<p>Stratford Upon Avon</p> <p>Drive north from Bath, taking a detour via the lovely Cotswold hills and picturesque towns and villages to Stratford.</p> <p>Stratford was of course home to Shakespeare. It is where he</p>	

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	<p>was born, brought up and lived with Ann Hathaway when he wasn't in London. A fun and informative way to see the Shakespeare sites is on the open top bus.</p> <p>The man RSC building will still be closed for renovation but the Courtyard theatre is open..</p> <p>There are a number of excellent mansion houses with lovely grounds and gardens in this area. Charlecote Park is one of them, where Shakespeare reputedly went poaching.</p>	
Day 7/8/9 (3 nights)	<p>The Lake District</p> <p>Travel north via the motorway system to the Lake District National Park, which has inspired not only poets and writers but artists too, notably Turner who painted many of the Cumbrian landscapes.</p> <p>This area is rich in places of literary interest surrounding the poet Wordsworth, The children's author and illustrator, Beatrix Potter , and the writer and artist John Ruskin.</p>	
Day 10/11 (2 nights)	<p>Edinburgh</p> <p>Take a literary Bus and Pub tour, which celebrates the work of Scottish authors and poets such as Robert Burns, Sir Water Scott, Robert Louis Stevenson and Robert Ferguson.</p> <p>Make sure you explore the famous castle, then stroll along the Royal Mile (the 'High Street' of the medieval city), past the new controversial Scottish parliament building, to Holyrood Palace, home to past Scottish monarchs and now the Queen's official residence in Scotland. It is well worth taking a guided walking tour as you can bypass so much history on the Royal Mile.</p> <p>There are many museums and galleries. For something more unusual, visit the Royal Yacht Britannia to see how the Royal family lived on board.</p>	
Day 13 (1 nights)	<p>Yorkshire or the Peak District</p> <p>It is a long way back from Edinburgh to London so we suggest you stop overnight.</p> <p>You have a couple of options. You could stop close to the Bronte sisters home, Hawarth, in Yorkshire, which is now a museum to their lifestyle and work.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>You could carry on the Derbyshire Peak District. This national park, particularly Haversage, inspired Charlotte Bronte and is thought to be the setting for Jane Eyre. It is also the area where Pride and Prejudice (the Kiera Knightly version) was filmed. Visit either Haddon Hall or Chatsworth house in the morning</p>	

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	before setting off on your final leg.	
Day 14 (1 night)	Windsor Return to around west of London in easy reach of Heathrow. If there is time visit Windsor castle, the oldest continuously inhabited royal residence in Britain or Hampton Court, Henry VIII's favourite palace. A trip on the river, weather permitting, is a relaxing alternative.	
Day 15	Heathrow Airport & home	
	Travel times are approximate and reflect the type of road travelled.	