

# What makes our tours special

WHATSPECIAL251016

**SMALL GROUPS:** An average of fewer than 14 persons per tour, with the ultimate maximum being 22 guests.

**FLEXIBILITY:** Small groups mean we can change our daily schedule, taking advantage of weather conditions, local events and your particular interest. Each evening the group discusses the following day's alternatives and there is scope for choice. Of course, you'll see the main listed touring highlights, but so much more too.

**WELL-BALANCED SIGHTSEEING:** Days of variety with something suit all interests, seeing both the famous sights and the not so familiar. And while the theme of the tour may be "garden" or "other event" it is not exclusively that, as you will have the opportunity to experience the other highlights of the area as well. Entrance fees, when with your guide, are included in the tour price. Please note: the detailed itineraries provided should be read as guidelines to allow for flexibility.

**LEISURELY PACED:** No early morning calls, no rush to be at predetermined places, no fifteen-minute stops at places of interest, and no 'commission' shopping stops. Please do note there while there may be occasional and unavoidable longer drives on the longer tours when driving between major accommodation bases, we try to keep these to a minimum. We schedule comfort stops enroute.

**INDEPENDENCE WITHOUT THE HASSLES OF DRIVING YOURSELF:** You'll not be 'herded' and there'll be time to explore on your own in major towns, with the help of your driver/guide, of course.

**UNIQUE AND INTERESTING ITINERARIES:** Get behind the tourist façade, meeting 'locals', avoiding the tourist traps. Please note our tours are designed for the reasonably active and involve some walking so some itineraries may not suit those with mobility issues. Please consult us if in any doubt.

**COACH TRANSPORT:** We use a range of comfortable coaches. All are air conditioned and luggage is stored under-floor or in a special boot/trunk section. You sit high above the cars and hedgerows, enjoying good all round views.

**MINI-COACH TRANSPORT:** The specially designed mini-coaches can travel anywhere a car can, reaching places the larger coach finds impossible. Luggage is stored under-floor or in a special boot/trunk section. You sit high above the cars and hedgerows, enjoying good all round views.

**SMALLER TRANSPORT:** We'll occasionally use 7 seat multiple-purpose vehicles (SUVs) where the number of tour participants is 5 or below. Otherwise, your touring vehicle will most likely be a 16 seat Sprinter. See some photos, inside and out, on the Mini-Coaches page.

**THE SAME ACCOMMODATION FOR A NUMBER OF NIGHTS:** No constant packing and unpacking. Wherever possible we stay in a single accommodation for several nights and use this as a base for our daily explorations, allowing you to really get in-depth in the area and learn about the places you are visiting.

**ACCOMMODATION:** Inns, boutique hotels, B&Bs and occasionally castles, each with its own charm. Each is chosen for their location and facilities. All accommodation is of a high standard (mostly three or four star/similar rating) and all rooms are with private/ensuite facilities. Rooms are normally doubles or twin share and a limited number of single rooms.

**ENTERTAINMENT EVENINGS:** Optional theatre, special events, visits to country pubs, dinners with the locals and fun!

**OUR TOUR HOSTS:** Our guide/companions, both male and female, boast a wide range of backgrounds and abilities. Above all else, they are dedicated to ensuring your comfort, safety and enjoyment.

**MEALS:** Enjoy the best of local cuisine, sampling regional favourites whenever possible. We dine at restaurants, pubs and at accommodations. Traditional cooked (UK/Ireland) or continental breakfasts (London/Europe) is included daily and special two-three course welcome and farewell dinners are included, plus other meals as per the tour itinerary. We do not include dinners every night for flexibility's sake, so you can get out and about independently for a change of pace,

**WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET:** Many tour companies advertise a low initial tour sales price to attract you. BUT once you're on the tour, you find your purse or wallet is constantly open as you pay for additional options and extras. Some folks may initially feel that our tours seem expensive, but we believe that you get what you pay for. Our tours are designed to be as inclusive as possible for value's sake, while allowing for some flexibility. Breakfast is included daily and other meals as per your final tour itinerary. Entrance fees are included while you are with your guide. During your tour, you are responsible for lunches, beverages, any souvenirs you may choose to purchase and non-group dinners. See the tour inclusions for your chosen tour.

**GRATUITIES:** We even include gratuities for the driver, porters and the tour host. Gratuities as recognition for particular service in response to your individual requirements are of course at your discretion.

**THE BEST ADVERTISING IS REPEAT CLIENTS AND WORD OF MOUTH:** We get an enormous sense of satisfaction when we get new bookings from previous clients or receive a letter, call or an email from our clients stating what a fantastic tour they had. This is a big part of why we do - what we do! If you would like to read what some of our past clients have said about us and our tours, please see our testimonials page.