Southwest England Walk

August 25 to September 6, 2017

“A delight—great food and wine, beautiful countryside, lovely hotels and congenial fellow travelers with whom to enjoy it all.”

— Alison Anderson, Italian Lakes Walk, 2016
ENJOY TWELVE DAYS IN A PART OF ENGLAND THAT FEW TRAVELERS VENTURE TO EXPERIENCE. Traverse the rolling green pastures of Cornwall; romp through hillsides dotted with the brilliant purple heather flower; tow a trail along a stunning Atlantic coastline. Pay homage to some of the greats and walk in the footsteps of Coleridge, Hardy and Wordsworth; experience the unchallenged natural beauty that inspired so many of their works. Our time outdoors is combined with stays in charming English country hotels and visits to storybook abbeys. Join us on this outstanding ramble!
Faculty Leader

Professor Elaine Treharne joined the Stanford faculty in 2012 in the School of Humanities as a professor of English. Her main research focuses on Early British manuscripts—their intentionality, materiality and functionality. Included in that research is her current project, which looks on the book as an object together with the long history of text technologies from the earliest times (circa 60,000 B.C.E.) to the present day. When asked about her work, Professor Treharne replies, “The literature of the Celts and the Anglo-Saxons and the manuscripts that they produced are direct testimony to a world in which the individual and his or her community strove to make sense of life, providing us with accounts of experiences and hardships that are otherwise impossible for us to imagine. I think I’m inherently nosey and I delight in closely analyzing what we can deduce from the vestiges of past people and places.”

When asked about Southwest England, Professor Treharne states, “This part of the world is of outstanding natural beauty with the rolling hills of Wiltshire, the moors of Devon, the high-hedged lanes and rugged coastline of Cornwall, and the ancient routes carved into the landscape over millennia. The traces of the past are visible everywhere, and it’s possible to feel a genuine connection with ancient people.”

- Roberta Bowman Denning Professor of Humanities, professor of English, and, by courtesy, of German Studies at Stanford’s School of Humanities
- BA, English, University of Manchester
- MA, archive administration, University of Liverpool
- PhD, medieval literature, University of Manchester

“Southwest England is a place where time and history become inscribed in our everyday experiences and it’s impossible not to feel moved, inspired, revivified and entranced by the scenery, the sights and sounds, and the people.”

—Professor Elaine Treharne, faculty leader, Southwest England Walk, 2017
Itinerary

Friday & Saturday, August 25 & 26

**U.S. / London, England / Evershot**

Depart the U.S. on overnight flights to London. Upon arrival, drive southwest along a country road to Winchester, the ancient capital of England, and then on to Evershot where we spend our first three nights. This evening, enjoy a welcome reception and dinner in our hotel. SUMMER LODGE HOTEL (D)

Sunday, August 27

**Dorset / Evershot**

Today we pay homage to the writer and poet Thomas Hardy as we a walk through the heart of Dorset close to the fine market town of Dorchester, the writer’s home for most of his life. Our walk leads us through some of Britain’s loveliest villages and across the landscapes made famous by Hardy in his Wessex novels. At the end of our day of walking in the hills we arrive at Hardy’s cottage from where we return to our hotel by coach. SUMMER LODGE HOTEL (B,L,D) _Total walking distance: 7 miles_

Monday, August 28

**South Dorset / Chesil Beach / Evershot**

Travel to the World Heritage site of South Dorset’s Jurassic coast. Our walk leads us along a ridge high above the sea before descending to Chesil Beach where we lunch al fresco. In the afternoon we continue along the shore to Abbotsbury with its ancient abbey and famous swannery. Return by coach to our hotel in Evershot. SUMMER LODGE HOTEL (B,L,D) _Total walking distance: 8 miles_

Tuesday, August 29

**Stourhead / Taunton**

After a morning walk through farmland, visit what are perhaps the finest landscape gardens in England surrounding the stunning Palladian mansion of Stourhead. Walking the paths of this 2,650-acre estate is a delightful walking experience and the carefully designed views across the lake are inspiring. This afternoon we continue to our hotel in the Somerset county town of Taunton. CASTLE HOTEL (B,L,D) _Total walking distance: 6 miles_

Wednesday, August 30

**Mendip Hills / Glastonbury / Taunton**

Travel north to the striking limestone ridge of Mendip Hills, pierced by the famous Cheddar Gorge. This magnificent geological site has been inhabited by humans since the Paleolithic Period. After visiting Mendip Hills, walk down to the cathedral city of Wells. This afternoon we drive the short distance to Glastonbury full of history and mythology; it’s thought by many to be the site of King Arthur’s Avalon, as well as the resting place of Joseph of Arimathea. Visit the Glastonbury Abbey and then return by coach to our hotel in Taunton. CASTLE HOTEL (B,L,D) _Total walking distance: 5 miles_

Thursday, August 31

**Quantock Hills / Taunton**

This morning we make our way north toward the Bristol Channel as we wander across the Quantock Hills towards Exmoor. The pristine landscape studded with oak trees and carpeted with heather was the first parcel of land in England to be designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which guarantees its protection for generations to come. Our route would be familiar to Dorothy and William Wordsworth.
as well as Coleridge, all of whom often walked in the area. Late this afternoon we return by coach to our hotel. CASTLE HOTEL (B,L) Total walking distance: 6 miles

Friday, September 1
Dartmouth
Today we travel past Exeter to the coast of South Devon beyond the “English Riviera” to Dartmouth, home of the Royal Naval College and a great trading and embarkation port. Our walk reveals the beauty that abounds along this stunning southwest coastal path. This afternoon continue to our luxury castle-like hotel on the edge of Dartmoor. BOVEY CASTLE (B,L,D) Total walking distance: 4 miles

Saturday, September 2
Dartmoor National Park
Our walk today explores the varied landscapes of Dartmoor. Walk amid magnificent upland countryside that conceals many Stone Age sites, crossing the moors made famous by writer Arthur Conan Doyle in his novel, The Hound of the Baskervilles. After a picnic lunch we continue our walk past the area’s famous tors, or rock outcroppings, and then return by coach to our hotel. Alternatively, after lunch there is the option to relax back at our hotel’s spa or take advantage of the hotel’s 18-hole golf course. BOVEY CASTLE (B,L,D) Total walking distance: 9 miles

Sunday, September 3
Tintagel / St. Mawes
Our walk today takes us along some of Cornwall’s most beautiful coastline. Walk down Rocky Valley to the shore and along the coast to King Arthur’s supposed birthplace of Tintagel. After visiting this most evocative of sites, continue to our hotel located on the beautiful southern Cornish Coast. IDLE ROCKS HOTEL (B,L,D) Total walking distance: 7 miles

Monday, September 4
St. Ives / St. Mawes
This morning, travel to the moors in the deep southwest of Cornwall. Our walk leads through splendid scenic landscapes that follow ancient tracks across this wild country. On the way visit tiny villages and strips of land dating back to the earliest farmers in Britain. After a picnic lunch, continue along the Cornish coast to St. Ives, home to a famous artists’ colony and now the Tate St Ives art gallery before returning to our hotel. IDLE ROCKS HOTEL (B,L) Total walking distance: 6.5 miles

Tuesday, September 5
Roseland / St. Mawes
We spend today on the Roseland peninsula making our way along the coast to St-Anthony-in-Roseland and its beautiful church with splendid views overlooking the Carrick Roads. After a picnic lunch we continue across the peninsula to return to St. Mawes where we gather for a farewell reception before dinner. IDLE ROCKS HOTEL (B,L,D) Total walking distance: 6 miles

Wednesday, September 6
St. Mawes / U.S.
This morning after breakfast and checkout, we transfer to either the Truro railway station or the Newquay airport, depending on your mode of transportation. Board independent connections, making your way home. (B)
What to Expect

Walking Distances and Gradients

Daily walks range from approximately 4 to 9 miles in length, with an average of 6.5 miles, split between a morning and afternoon walk. During our walk we will encounter undulating hills, rocky coastlines and sometimes steep tracks. While the gradient and track type will vary, you must be comfortable, sure-footed and physically fit enough to cover hilly terrain on a daily basis.

Terrain and Weather Description

Southwest England’s terrain consists of rolling hills and valleys, with open pastureland and forests as well as some coastal walking on cliff paths. The excellent countryside trails are often farm tracks that wind through pastures and shaded woodlands. The paths are sometimes rocky or have exposed roots and are often muddy and wet. The weather in this region at this time of year is generally warm but may be overcast and rainy at times. We consider this to be a moderately strenuous and physically demanding program. All of our walks are led by experienced leaders. Several of our daily excursions might be considered by some participants to be hikes rather than walks. To participate fully in this walking tour, you need to be physically fit, agile and used to moderate exercise. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.
Information

Dates
August 25 to September 6, 2017 (13 days)

Size
This program can accommodate 29 participants. Single accommodations are extremely limited; please call for availability.

Cost*
$9,995 per person, double occupancy
$12,495 per person, single occupancy
*Association nonmembers add $300 per person

Included
- 11 nights of luxury hotel accommodations
- 11 breakfasts, 10 lunches and 9 dinners
- Welcome and farewell receptions
- Gratuities to porters, hotel staff, guides, and drivers for all group activities
- All tours as described in the itinerary
- Group transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days
- Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance
- Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information
- Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

Not Included
- International and domestic airfare
- Passport and visa fees
- Immunization costs
- Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
- Independent and private transfers
- Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance
- Excess-baggage charges
- Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services
Terms and Conditions

Deposit and Final Payment
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold space on this program. Sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?england2017 or call the Travel/Study office at (650) 725-1093. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

Cancellations and Refunds
Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. Information offering such insurance will be provided to travelers with their welcome materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within 14 days of written confirmation of your participation on the trip.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $300 more than the member’s price. A person traveling as a guest paid for by a current member will not be charged the nonmember fee. Call (650) 725-0692 or visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership for more information or to purchase a membership.

Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket connected with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in August 2016 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.

California Seller of Travel Program Registration #2048 523-50

© COPYRIGHT 2016 STANFORD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
Contact Information

Visit us online to reserve space:

Questions? Call us at (650) 725-1093 or email us at travelstudy@alumni.stanford.edu

Stanford Alumni Association
Stanford Travel/Study
Frances C. Arrillaga Alumni Center
326 Galvez Street
Stanford, CA 94305