A Literary Tour in Southern England featuring Downton Abbey

28th August – 2nd September

Featuring Professor of English: Donald E. Pease
Your Exquisite England Literary Experience:  
28th August – 2nd September 2020

Day 1: Arrival into London

• Guests will arrive into London Heathrow and will be transferred to the Grosvenor House Hotel. Upon arrival they will check into their bedrooms for a two-night stay and have some leisure time to explore their surroundings. Welcome packs will be placed into guest bedrooms with their itineraries.

• Welcome drinks will be hosted in one of the hotel’s private rooms in the early evening.

• An introductory lecture will be conducted in the private room before an evening of leisure by Don Pease.

• Dinner after the welcome drinks will be at leisure.

Included Meals: N/A
Day 2: Literary Tour of London

• After breakfast, guests will meet their guide at the hotel and embark on a walking tour through London, exploring Bloomsbury Square, Gordon Square, Fitzroy Square, and the small bookshops, galleries and literary pubs of the area.

• Lunch on own or with group at traditional British pub

• Private visit to Jarndyce Antiquarian Booksellers, established in 1969.
  o Having published over 200 catalogues, they are the leading specialist in 18\textsuperscript{th} and 19\textsuperscript{th} century English Literature and History.

• Visit to Westminster Abbey where some of England's greatest literary figures are buried – including Poet’s Corner. Guests will return to the hotel to freshen up.

• In the evening guests will be taken on a private guided tour of the British Library with an expert historian.

• Guests are invited to enjoy the delicious Tasting Menu at their private dinner at the British Library.

Included Meals: B, D
Day 3: Experience Oxford: Tolkien, Lewis Carroll, Wilde & Golding

- Guest will arrive into the city centre of Oxford, where they will be met by their private guide. The tour will start at Magdalen College where C S Lewis was tutor of English. Magdalen is one of the most impressive and beautiful colleges at Oxford University.

- From Magdalen guests will make their way to the University of Oxfordshire Botanic Gardens to find the bench so important to Will and Lyra from Phillip Pullman’s Northern Lights and Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll. Lastly, the tree that inspired Tolkien’s Ents used to reside in the Botanic Gardens until 2014 when it had to be cut down. It was a large Austrian black pine tree with branches that looked like long, thick arms.

- Head towards Merton College and the cobbled streets and coloured houses where J R R Tolkien became an English Literature Professor in 1945. A couple of metres down the road from Merton, you will find Christ Church, another grand college and the most famous of the Oxford colleges. The college includes many large, beautiful gardens.

- When guests leave Christ Church, they will find themselves in Oriel Square where they will walk towards St Mary’s Passage.

- At this point, a well deserved lunch break will be required. Lunch on own or with group at the Vaults and Gardens in Radcliffe Square.
Day 3: Experience Oxford: Tolkien, Lewis Carroll, Wilde & Golding

- Guests can explore Radcliffe Square, which is home to Oxford University’s iconic round library. This distinctive shape can be seen from the very corners of Oxford so it’s not surprising that it inspired Tolkien and Sauron’s temple to Morgoth.

- Last but not least, guests will visit the Oxford University Museum of Natural History on Parks Road before stopping on one of the traditional pubs for a pint.

  *There is an option for a afternoon river cruise if this is preferred.*

- The group will be taken to the Randolph Hotel in the centre of Oxford where they will check in.

- Guests will have the evening at leisure in Oxford.

Meals: B
Day 3: Optional: Oxford River Cruise

The cruise will last for two hours and your skipper will take you on a journey upstream towards Binsey which is a wonderful scenic route along the River Thames or, downstream where you will see the Oxford University Boat Houses and head towards Iffely. You can decide your route with your skipper on the day.

There is a choice of two luxury vessels dependant on level of interest.

The Golden Slumber and Bacchanalia are sister launches and carry up to 12 people per launch. Both are Edwardian style launches now electrically propelled so are almost silent when running. These beautiful launches are the perfect venue from which to enjoy the River Thames. The Golden Slumber and Bacchanalia carry up to 12 passengers.
Day 3: Optional: Oxford River Cruise

All prices including a 2 hour river cruise, knowledgeable skipper, a bottle of mineral water per person and a bottle of wine per couple.

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<th>Golden Slumber</th>
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<tr>
<td>Price per person (2 guests)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Price per person (6 guests)</td>
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PRICES INCLUDE VAT
Day 4: Visit Shakespeare's Birthplace

- After breakfast, guests will depart from the Randolph Hotel, Oxford and travel by coach to Stratford upon Avon, the historic town where William Shakespeare was born.

- Upon arrival the group will be met by their private guide who will share England's storybook village as you tour the picturesque medieval town of Stratford upon Avon. Guests will visit Shakespeare’s Birthplace where rooms are furnished to recreate the interiors as they might have been in the 1570s and Hall’s Croft, the 17th century home of Shakespeare’s eldest daughter, Susanna, and her husband, Dr John Hall.

- Anne Hathaway’s Cottage is next, which was still owned by her descendants until the late 19th century and contains the Hathaway bed and many other items of furniture owned by the family.

- Lunch on own or with group at recommended pub

- Dinner on own in Oxford; historic pub recommendations available.

Included Meals: B
Day 5: Discover Downton Abbey

- After breakfast, guests will depart by coach to Highclere Castle, home to the hit TV show Downton Abbey.
- Highclere Castle, in Hampshire, the eponymous Downton Abbey, has been home to the Earl and Countess of Carnarvon and their family since 1679. Highclere is undoubtedly one of England's most beautiful castles set amid spectacular parkland.
- Guests can then explore the beautiful State Rooms, Castle Bedrooms and Egyptian Exhibition including remarkable works of art, paintings and furniture with fascinating historical links.
- Guests will depart Highclere Castle and be taken to Chawton House.
Day 5: Understand the Life that Jane Austen lived

- Guests will be welcomed to Chawton House for lunch prior to a guided tour of the library reading rooms, exhibition and gardens. Lunch at Chawton House.

- Arrival to the quiet spot of Steveton village, where Jane Austen was born with a visit to St Nicholas Church where guests will enjoy an introductory talk by Michael Kenning, the Vice Chair of the Jane Austen Society with tea and cake in the village hall.

- The next stop will be to the Jane Austen Museum at Chawton where Jane spent the last eight years of her life, in this unpretentious cottage in Hampshire.

- Guests will depart from Chawton and transfer to the Old Thorns Manor Hotel

- Farewell drinks and dinner will be served in the Hotel for the last night of the experience.

Included Meals: B,L,D

- Day 6 – Departure from the Old Thorns Manor Hotel and Golf Course to London Heathrow
Faculty Bio:

Donald E. Pease

Donald E. Pease is a Professor of English and Comparative Literature, the Ted and Helen Geisel Third Century Professor in the Humanities, and the Chair of the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Program. He is an authority on 19th- and 20th-century American literature and literary theory and founder/director of the Futures of American Studies Institute. He is the co-editor of American Renaissance Rediscovered, general editor of a series of books by Duke University Press called "The New Americanists," and the author of several books and more than 100 scholarly articles. Professor Pease has been awarded Guggenheim, Mellon, and Hewlett fellowships and has twice received a National Endowment for the Humanities directorship to teach college teachers about 19th-century American literature. He has been teaching at Dartmouth since 1973, the same year he earned a PhD in English from the University of Chicago.

Price for the Literary Tour: $4,995.00 per person
No Single Supplement

Donald E. Pease
Terms and Conditions

- Guest incidentals are to be settled by the individuals on departure of the hotel - such as extra drinks with dinner.
- Costs and availability are not confirmed until confirmation and a deposit payment has been received.
- Minimum numbers apply – the trip may not run if participant numbers are not met.
- In the case of cancellation, deposits paid are not always refundable and may be applied to any outstanding balances due as a result of such cancellation.
- Final payment is due by 26th June 2020.
- Final event costs are subject to change: if there are any amendments requested by the client which differ from the details provided within your proposal then we will agree this with you in writing.
- Fees and services are based on exchange rates of August 2019 and are subject to change.
- All services and costs are subject to availability and confirmation of cost at the time of booking and currently the above services have not been placed on hold unless stated. No option or rate is secure until the time of confirmation.
- Final costs (and details) are subject to change: if there are any amendments requested by the client which differ from the details provided at enquiry stages then we will agree this with you in writing.

INCLUSIONS

- All accommodations, meals and excursions as specified in the itinerary
- Transfers for all participants/ bottled water on coach
- Humphreys of Henley Representative and daily guide
- House wine, beer and soft drinks where specified
- Transfers to and from the airport
- Gratuities for the drivers

EXCLUSIONS

- Flights
- Gratuities to porters, waitstaff, guides
- Visa expenses, medical expenses and immunizations
- Photographer
- Travel insurance
- Excess baggage charges
- Laundry or dry cleaning and any other items of a personal nature