Yorkshire and the Lake District

September 8 - 21, 2019
14 Days • 23 Meals
Escorted by Barbara Sykes

Craig travel
After retiring from the Diocese of Toronto, Barbara has served in Interim Ministry in the Diocese of Niagara. Prior to ordination Barbara was a teacher. She earned her Master's degrees in Theology and Divinity and a Doctorate in Ministry. With her Husband Ralph, Barbara has travelled extensively leading numerous tours and cruises on our behalf to many parts of the world including the Middle East, Africa, Europe, the Arctic and Antarctic and South America. Barbara and Ralph are looking forward to sharing this special journey with you.

The magnificent British countryside awaits us as we journey to Yorkshire and the Lake District, two of Britain’s most scenic wonderlands.

By special request, we have designed this leisurely journey to highlight the regions associated with James Herriot, Emily Brontë, Beatrix Potter and William Wordsworth, among others. Yorkshire with its picturesque Dales, great houses and quaint villages await. While in the Lake District we enjoy some of the green hills and tranquil lakes for which this region is justly famous. The Yorkshire Dales has many moods; windswept and wild or quietly tranquil. Each valley, or dale, has a distinct character, with stone-built villages, flower-rich hay meadows and spectacular waterfalls. The Lake District has twelve of England’s largest lakes and is truly one of the country’s breathing spaces.

Our journey includes extended stays at two distinctly different resorts, ranging from the historic White Hart in the heart of Harrogate to the lakeside resort and spa on the shores of Lake Windermere. Space is limited and we suggest that you reserve your places early to avoid disappointment.

In all likelihood this will prove to be a very popular journey. We urge you to book early to ensure your places on this unique journey.

**Inclusive Features**

- Return economy group airfare from Canada to Manchester
- Services of our Canadian group escort plus our professional tour manager in Britain
- 8 nights first class hotel in Harrogate
- 4 nights first class resort in the Lake District
- 23 meals included as noted (B - 12 English breakfasts, L - 2 lunches, D - 9 dinners)
- Transportation and entrances for included sightseeing
- All gratuities, surcharges, taxes and fees for included services (including air taxes and fees)
- Airport transfers in Canada or equivalent value with purchase of group airfare

**Highlights**

- Romanesque Ripon Cathedral and historic Holy Trinity Church
- Magnificent York - Cathedral and Shambles
- Discover the Yorkshire landscapes and villages that were so dear to James Herriot
- Bolton Abbey and Priory
- Magnificent Piece Hall in Halifax
- Ride the Embay and Bolton Steam Railway
- Goathland where the drama "Heartbeat" was filmed
- Harewood House and Castle Howard, great houses from a bygone era
- Explore the landscapes of Emily Brontë
- Strickland family home for 750 years - Sizergh Castle
- Cruise on Lake Windermere
- The life and times of Beatrix Potter
- William Wordsworth’s Dove Cottage and Museum
- Castlerigg Stone Circle, a prehistoric worship site

**Tour Escort**

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September 8, Sunday  Depart Canada
Group members gather in Toronto for the overnight flight to Manchester.

September 9, Monday  Manchester / Harrogate
Our tour manager will meet us on arrival in Manchester and transfer us to nearby Harrogate, a delightful city ideally located in the heart of Yorkshire. Our first class hotel is located in the heart of the city, convenient for exploring the centre and nearby parks. Welcome dinner will be at our hotel. White Hart Hotel (8 nights)  D

September 10, Tuesday  Herriot Countryside
First stop today will be in Ripon at its ancient Cathedral, a beautiful church with a history reaching back to the 7th century. The Saxon crypt, one of the oldest in the country, is the only part of Wilfrid's original church that remains. Continue to West Tanfield to visit the Marmion Tower and medieval gatehouse. In Wensley, see Holy Trinity Church, where the TV wedding of James Herriot took place. Drive past Buckden and Kettlewell to Kilnsey Crag, the dominant limestone cliff of the dale. In the picturesque village of Burnsall, the parish church contains rare Viking and Anglo-Saxon carved stones. En route back to Harrogate stop in Greenhow for a photo of the wonderful Nidd Valley.  BL

September 11, Wednesday  York
Today enjoy the beautiful and medieval city of York, with fascinating insights into its long and varied history. The magnificent 13th century walls enclose a medieval spider's web of narrow cobbled stone streets. At its heart lies the immense, awe-inspiring York Minster, one of the most beautiful Gothic cathedrals in the world. On arrival, we will explore on foot the Shambles, one of England's most interesting medieval cities and see the fine Minster with its beautiful medieval stained glass windows and marvel at the narrow cobbled streets. We will have free time to explore on our own, before returning to Harrogate.  BD

September 12, Thursday  All Creatures Great and Small
Journey through the scenic heart of the Yorkshire Dales and Herriot country. Enjoy the breathtaking view overlooking the River Swale and the great castle of Richmond, dating from the days of the Conquest. Highlight visits include Askrigg, (Darrowby in the Herriot TV series), Cringley House (Herriot's Skeldale House), and Wheatsheaf Inn, Carperby (Herriot's honeymoon hotel). Bolton Castle was a luxurious country home as well as a defensive fortress. Inside we will find a complete household with kitchens, dungeon, solar, nursery, armoury and the Great Chamber. Built in 1399, the castle's scars bear testament to over 600 years of history including the Pilgrimage of Grace, Mary Queen of Scots' imprisonment and a Civil War siege. The castle was also the location for James Herriot's proposal to his future wife.  BD

September 13, Friday  North York Moors
Venture north and east across the North York Moors to the coast for a day of scenic driving. Stop at Goathland, the location where "Heartbeat", one of Britain's most popular drama series, was filmed. Continue to Whitby for lunch. Later we drive down the coast to Scarborough and then inland to Pickering. Then we pass through Helmsley with a photo stop at Rievaulx Abbey, which ruins date from 1132 and earlier, and felt by many to be the most beautiful in Britain.  BL

September 14, Saturday  Bolton Priory
Venture across the Blubberhouse Moor on our way to Bolton Abbey Priory. We will explore the ruins of the Priory, set in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales on the banks of the River Wharfe. Enjoy a leisurely walk along the river's edge, along woodland and moorland paths. Following a break to enjoy lunch, we will ride the Embay and Bolton Abbey Steam Railway from the award winning historic station at Bolton Abbey to Embay Station which was built in 1888. On the train ride we will see a 16th century tower and St. Wilfrid's Church. On our return to Harrogate we will drive by Barden Tower.  BD

September 15, Sunday  Halifax / Brontë Country
This morning we will visit the house and gardens at Harewood. Dating from the 18th century it is one of the region's most magnificent great houses. In Halifax, visit Yorkshire's most important secular building, Piece Hall, an architectural and cultural gem. It is the sole survivor of the great 18th century northern cloth halls, the hand woven textiles from the pre-industrial economy of Yorkshire. Visit the church of St. John the Baptist, which has stood for over 900 years. Highlights include the standing stones, the medieval font, stunning Victorian east window, 18th century marigold window, unique Reformation box pews and Commonwealth period window, a rare survival. On our way back to Harrogate we will pass by Haworth, home of the Brontë sisters.  BD

September 16, Monday  Castle Howard
Castle Howard, one of Britain's finest historic houses, is situated just outside York in the Howardian Hills, an area of outstanding natural beauty. The approach to Castle Howard is as breathtaking as the arrival. The magnificent 18th century house has dramatic interiors filled with world-renowned collections. With peaceful woodland and lakeside walks, the 18th century walled garden featuring a rose collection and an ornamental vegetable garden is a real treasure. We then return to Harrogate for some time at leisure and explore this beautiful Victorian spa town on our own.  BD
September 17, Tuesday  To the Lake District
We say farewell to Harrogate, crossing the Yorkshire Dales to the Lake District. Visit Sizergh Castle, home of the Strickland family for more than 750 years. The romantic fortified mansion contains some of the finest Elizabethan carved over mantels in the country, as well as a collection of English and French furniture. Later explore Levens Hall, a magnificent mansion built around a 13th century pele tower and expanded in the 16th century. The family home of the Bagots, it contains a collection of Jacobean furniture, fine paintings, the earliest English patchwork and many other beautiful objects. The gardens of Levens Hall are an unique living sculpture gallery, a topiary garden, with over 100 pieces each clipped to an unusual and individual design. Our very special first class hotel and spa is located on the shores of Lake Windermere in the heart of the Lake District. Low Wood Bay Hotel & Spa (4 nights)  BD

September 18, Wednesday  Lake Windermere
Our day begins with a cruise on Lake Windermere. Nearby is the Hill Top, a time capsule of Beatrix Potter’s amazing life. Full of her favourite things, the house appears as if Beatrix had just stepped out for a walk. Just up the road is the village of Hawkshead. Historic and wonderfully picturesque, it is characterised by a cluster of whitewashed houses, archways and alleyways, courtyards and squares. Further north, next to the town of Grasmere, is Dove Cottage, the cottage and home of the famous poet William Wordsworth. The first family home of Britain’s greatest poet, he lived there from 1799-1808. Settling in this enchanting place meant that he was able to concentrate on writing, making this period his most inspired and productive.  BD

September 19, Thursday  Grasmere / Keswick
Venturing further north, we pass through Grasmere on our way to Keswick. Nestling between the Skiddaw Mountains and Derwentwater Lake, Keswick is situated in an idyllic location. Nearby we shall discover the Castlerigg Stone Circle. Surrounded by the fells of Skiddaw and Blencathra to its north and Castlerigg Fell, High Rigg and Clough Head to its south, this ring of 38 stones, set within a ring of mountains, has stood for about 4,500 years since its creation by Neolithic farming communities.  B

September 20, Friday  Wray Castle / Ambleside
On the shores of Lake Windermere we find the neo-Gothic Wray Castle. Built around 1840 by a prominent Liverpool surgeon, the original owners never lived in the castle but it did play host to several illustrious visitors including Beatrix Potter and William Wordsworth. After some time exploring the property, enjoy some time at leisure in Ambleside and/or Windermere. This evening we enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.  BD

September 21, Saturday  Manchester / Canada
All too soon our journey through Yorkshire and the Lake District comes to an end as we transfer to Manchester and catch our flight to Toronto with connections to our homes. B

Tour Cost in Canadian Dollars per person

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Airfares from other gateways are available on request. Airfares and air carriers are subject to change and will be confirmed prior to final payment. Refer to inclusive features for details. Tour price is based on sharing a double or twin bedded room. Prices are based on a minimum 20 members and on rates, taxes and fees effective June 2018. Prices are subject to change due to factors beyond our control. Group to be escorted with a minimum of 20 group members.

Prices DO NOT INCLUDE the cost of insurance which is available and is highly recommended. Premiums vary with the trip cost and length, and the traveller’s age. For passengers up to and including 74 years on departure date, premiums will range from $280 to $383 pp plus applicable taxes. Cost supplements for travellers aged 75-85 will range from $186 to $375pp plus applicable taxes. This insurance is effective from the date of purchase and carries limitations on pre-existing medical conditions. Clients 86 years and older and/or clients residing outside Ontario - please contact our staff for procedures. Please discuss your insurance coverage prior to booking. Check our website for the most current information. Refer to the enrollment form for general information and conditions.

Final payment will be due June 4, 2019
Deposit is $500 per person

To reserve your spot on this tour, complete the enclosed enrollment form, indicating the tour you wish to join and your home city, and forward it with your deposit to:

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