



C·I·E TOURS
International
Like traveling with friends



Fiber Garden
LLC

Fiber arts workshops • Mercantile • Travel tours



England ◯ Wales ◯ Scotland
June 16-27, 2017

Prepare to Travel!



Welcome and Introductions

- Mary Pat Flanagan, CIE Tours International
- Tour participants
 - Where are you from?
 - What are your fiber interests?
 - Why did you decide to participate in our tour?



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Passport & Visas

- U.S. and Canadian citizens require a valid passport to enter Britain – check that yours is valid, preferably until six months past your travel date.
- Always keep your passport safely on your person – never pack it in a suitcase. You need to show it at airports.
- It is a good idea to keep a note of the number, expiration date, place and date of issue or photocopy of the first page at home and also with your travel partner, in case of loss or theft.
- U.S. and Canadian visitors do not need visas to enter Britain.

Medications & Health

- If you take prescription drugs, ensure that you have ample supply for the duration of your trip and always carry them in your hand luggage.
- If your medication is in the “Sunday, Monday, Tuesday” case, no problem.
- If you rely on medication, glasses, contact lenses or dentures, it is a good idea to carry a prescription with generic drug name so it can be filled in Britain.

Electricity

- Electricity in Britain is supplied at 220 Volts (50 cycles).
- If you pack any electrical appliances, you will need an adapter (type G or universal) to convert the right plug size plus a transformer to convert American appliances (except for dual voltage equipment which needs only an adapter). Plugs are flat with three pins.
- All hotels used by CIE Tours provide a shaver outlet in the bathroom. A hair dryer and iron will be in the room or the hotel will supply them on request.
- **DO NOT BRING A CURLING IRON! It WILL melt. If you need one, buy one there! This is a BAD HAIR COUNTRY – no one will notice your hair!!!!**

Carry-on Backpack or Bag/Essential Items

- CIE Tours supplies you with a carry-on backpack, which is designed to fit in the overhead bin or beneath your seat on the coach.
- If you travel with a different carry-on, ensure it is no larger than ours or with wheels.
- Do not leave the bag unattended or put it with your suitcase when leaving the hotel. You are responsible for your carry-on at all times.
- Ensure that you keep essential items in your hand baggage (including passport, e-ticket receipts, vital medications etc).

Your Luggage

- Only one suitcase per person is permitted on coach bus tours due to space restrictions.
- You may not bring “wheeled” luggage as your carry on as it will not fit in the upper bins on the coach.
- Luggage is carried at owner’s risk throughout tour unless insured.
- As a general guideline, your suitcase should weigh less than 50 lbs. and measure less than 30 x 21 x 11 inches. A carry on can weigh no more than 20 lbs – our backpack is perfect! Airlines have their own regulations over which CIE Tours has no control.
- **IMPORTANT!** Scotland extended tour: Weight limit for checked bags on our flights to and from Shetland is 20 Kgs...that’s 44 pounds!

Your Luggage

- Travel light, dress comfortably and pack easy care items.
- Dressing in layers provides most comfort as you can shed or add items if temperatures fluctuate. Bear in mind temperatures at your destination as well as where you live.
- Casual clothes are fine for daytime travel but restaurants tend to be more formal. A good guideline is to wear what you would if you were going out to a good restaurant at home. Comfortable smart casual clothes are ideal for castle banquets and cabaret shows.

Your Luggage

- **Do not overpack! Consider packing the following items:**
 - **Comfortable walking shoes**
 - **All-weather coat with removable lining**
 - **Folding umbrella**
 - **Washcloths – not usually supplied at hotels**
 - **Workout clothes or a swimsuit**
 - **Costume jewelry – leave the expensive stuff at home!**
 - **Extra film or camera batteries – cheaper if bought at home**
 - **Leave extra space for all your fiber treasures!**

Luggage Labels

- Use your CIE Tours' labels and luggage strap so that our personnel can identify you on arrival at the start of your tour and your luggage throughout the tour.
- Complete the tags with your name and address and attach to your suitcase and carry-on bag.
- Also put identification inside your luggage in case the outside tag becomes detached.

Your Luggage

- Some items to help you pack efficiently:
 - Compression packing bags – make sure the bags do not need a vacuum!
 - Packing cubes

Weather

- Britain is influenced by weather patterns from the Atlantic Ocean, which create a very unpredictable climate. Many people say that all four seasons can be experienced in one day!
- The climate tends to be moderate – never blistering hot in summer and never bitterly cold in winter. Average summer temperatures range from 60-75°F with no huge day/night differences.
- Temperatures in Britain are given in centigrade so don't be surprised when you see low numbers!

Currency

- Britain uses the pound sterling (£). Sterling pound notes are issued in denominations of £5, £10, £20, £50 and £100 with coins of 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p 50p, £1 and £2. 100 pence = £1.

Changing Money

- You can change some money into pounds before you leave home; however, you will get a better rate of exchange in the overseas country.
- Banks at airports are open daily for early morning arrivals, including weekends and public holidays. Banks will convert dollars to pounds at the official exchange rates.
- Hotels and some stores will oblige by changing dollars but the rate will not be as favorable.

Credit Cards & ATMS

- Major credit cards are widely accepted and we recommend you use them for large purchases to avoid carrying excess cash.
- Discover is not accepted in Europe at this time.
- Visa and MC are widely accepted – AMX not so much!
- **MAKE SURE YOU CALL YOUR FINANCIAL INSTITUTION** and let them know you are leaving the country!
- Check that your credit card does not charge an international transaction fee!!
- ATMs are widely available and will accept the appropriate U.S. card and dispense cash in local currency. At this time if they do not have a chip and pin credit card the merchant simply enters the number.

Airline E-Tickets

- Electronic tickets or e-ticket receipts have replaced traditional paper tickets. Keep your e-ticket receipt with you in a safe place – never pack it in your luggage.
- For security reasons, the name on your airline reservation must match your passport exactly.
- Important!! It is YOUR responsibility to check your flight schedule prior to departure, and know all of the regulations (luggage weight, carry-on rules, etc.) of your airline.

Airport Check-in

- For international flights check in at least three hours prior to the scheduled departure time – allow more time if you have a lot of VAT forms to process.

Immigration & Customs

- When you arrive in Britain, the first checkpoint will be immigration where you will need to show your passport and complete any form given to you on your flight.
- After you pick up your luggage you will pass through customs control. Customs operate on the green (nothing to declare) and red (goods to declare) system.
- Check with British authorities or your travel agent before leaving home as to your duty free allowances and goods that are prohibited.
- To expedite passing through customs, consider using the mobile passport control app, free from the Apple or Google Play store.

VAT Taxes

- VAT (Value Added Tax) is included in the selling price of all goods in Britain. As a non-European Union resident purchasing goods to take home with you, you may claim a VAT refund which can save you 14-17%, depending on products purchased.
- There are a number of different VAT refund companies for Britain. You will need to process the relevant forms at the airport prior to boarding your flight home.
- Our CIE tour guide will explain all procedures for claiming VAT.

Time

- Britain is on Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) which is one hour behind Central European Time and five hours ahead of U.S. Eastern Standard Time. Daylight Savings Time operates in Britain and the hour changes on or close to the same date as in the U.S.

Shopping

- Britain offers the visitor a wide variety of attractive locally produced goods and souvenirs of many types.
- Woolen goods, tweeds, cashmere, handcrafted items, jewelry, china and handcut crystal are probably the most popular items.
- Sizes are different in Britain and vary depending on manufacturer.
- Most stores accept major credit cards and can arrange to ship items home for you, but you are liable for import duty.
- Duty free shops are available at all international British airports.

Contact Information

- We suggest that you leave a copy of your hotel list with family members, friends or neighbors in case someone needs to contact you while you are away.
- This information will be included in the travel materials package that you will be receiving.

Phone Calls & E-Mails

- When you call Britain from the U.S., use the following prefix: 011 44 and delete the zero from the area code.
- When you call within Britain just use the area code and local number.
- Many hotels add surcharges when you call from your room so we advise you to clarify charges with the hotel operator before making a call.
- Pre-paid calling cards offer excellent rates and are on sale in many small stores. If you wish to carry your cell phone, check usage rates with your provider.
- Public internet services are available in most cities and towns and some hotels offer internet services, which have lower fees than phone calls.
- Skype internet calling is a very cost effective way to make calls “back home”.

Service Charges/Tipping

- Most hotels and restaurants include a service charge in your bill. Ask if it has been included, and if not, it is at your discretion with a recommended amount between 10% and 15%.
- Tipping is not usual in pubs.
- If someone performs a special service for you, a tip is a pleasant way to express your gratitude.

Driver/Guide Tips

- Gratuities to your tour director and driver are not included in the tour cost and are customary.
- Tips are left to your discretion and presented on an individual basis in an envelope at the end of your tour.
- Pounds, dollars or a combination of currencies is acceptable. The following amounts are guidelines:
 - Tour Director \$3 - \$5 per person per day
 - Driver \$3 - \$5 per person per day
 - Driver/Guide \$5 - \$7 per person per day
 - Local Tour Guide \$1 - \$2 per person per tour

Rotation of Seats & Seat Belts

- On all tours, seats are rotated at the beginning of each sightseeing tour to allow all participants an opportunity to sit towards the front of the coach.
- On each day of travel, passengers in the front two rows must move to the rear and others will move forward two rows.
- European Union regulations require all passengers to wear seat belts on coaches and clients need to remain seated while the coach is moving.

Medical Emergencies

- In case of illness when you are in a hotel, contact the reception desk as all hotels have doctors on call.
- If you are unwell when traveling on the coach, please let your tour director know as soon as possible.

Insurance

- For those with Travel Guard insurance, visit your travel insurance policy page:
 - A link to your policy is in the email receipt from when the policy was purchased. (email deb@fibergarden.com if you need her to re-send this to you)
 - At the top of the policy page, click on “printer friendly”
 - Print the page and cut out the wallet-size cards at the bottom of the page. Insert them in your luggage and carry one in your wallet.

Knit-Along

- **Pattern will be mailed with your trip information**
- **Knitting needles:**
 - **Airlines permit knitting needles in your carry-on**
 - **The above said, there is never a guarantee that all TSA agents will permit you to bring needles on the aircraft.**
 - **Bring only one pair on board and pack extra needles in your checked luggage**



Your Questions?



England○Wales○Scotland
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See you in London
on June 17th, for the
fiber adventure of a
lifetime!