

The Isle of Arran & Robbie Burns Country Tour S4 / 10

Departing Sunday 27 June 2010 *For 6 days / 5 nights*

Highlight of this short break is a full day scenic drive around the magical Isle of Arran with its breathtaking scenery and unique atmosphere. The charming seaside and golfing town of Troon is an ideal base for touring unspoilt South West Scotland. See the sights and landscapes which inspired Scotland's greatest bard – Robbie Burns. With an overnight stay in Gretna Green each way, we will have ample opportunity to explore the coast and pretty countryside of Dumfries and Galloway.

Your Short Break Hotels

Outward and return overnight stays at the Gretna Hall Hotel – a famous, historic coaching inn with modern extensions. Comfortable, well-appointed bedrooms, bar / lounge and pretty grounds for a stroll.

3 nights from Monday 28 June at the South Beach Hotel, Troon – situated in a fine location on the seafront with views to Ailsa Craig Rock. This is a friendly, pleasant 3-star family-run hotel. Attractive bedrooms – no lift; however, a number of ground floor rooms are available. Excellent restaurant with good home cooking, bar and lounges.

Your Short Break Highlights and Itinerary in Brief

Sunday ~ Reading to Gretna Green, halting for lunch at Trentham Gardens.

Monday ~ attractive journey north to Troon via Dumfries and along the beautiful Nithsdale, visiting the impressive Drumlanrig Castle and gardens en route.

Tuesday ~ enjoy the 60-minute crossing to the Isle of Arran from nearby Ardrossan. We make a scenic circuit of the island with plenty of interesting stops.

Wednesday ~ extended visit to Alloway to see Robbie Burns' birthplace, the National Heritage Centre and lovely Brig O Doon. Afternoon at leisure in Troon.

Thursday ~ we explore the Ayrshire coast via the 'Electric Brae', Girvan and Stranraer, continuing through lovely Galloway to Castle Douglas for a lunch halt.

Friday ~ southbound journey with plenty of stops en route.

*Fully inclusive tour price ~ **£485.00***

*Single room supplement ~ **£50.00***

This price includes the following:

❖ 5 nights' dinner, bed and breakfast

❖ Coach travel throughout including all excursions

❖ Tour guided throughout by Chris Goode

❖ Return ferry to Isle of Arran

❖ Admission to Drumlanrig Castle and Gardens

❖ Admission to Burns Cottage and National Heritage Park

Cheshire Explorer

Departing Monday 16 August 2010 *For 5 days / 4 nights*

Travel with us to the charming and fascinating county of Cheshire. Discover its attractive rural byways, pretty villages and towns together with a fine array of interesting attractions. We learn about hat making, silk manufacture and salt and soap production. Admire the beautiful Arley Hall, take a ferry ride across the Mersey and enjoy a boat ride up the amazing Anderton Boat Lift.

Your Short Break Hotel

Pinewood Hotel, Handforth – an attractive, modern, 3-star hotel situated in its own grounds in the leafy south Manchester suburbs. Bedrooms are comfortable and well appointed and a lift serves all floors. The Pinewood has a fine restaurant, bar and lounge.

Your Short Break Highlights and Itinerary in brief

Monday ~ we head for the impressive cathedral of Lichfield for a lunch break before enjoying a scenic drive through the Staffordshire Moorlands to Handforth.

Tuesday ~ learn all about precious salt at the fascinating Salt Museum in Northwich. Lunch halt in the town, then relax in the beautiful, colourful surroundings of Arley Hall and gardens.

Wednesday ~ over to Liverpool for a panoramic river cruise on board an iconic Mersey Ferry. Full afternoon to the exquisite Port Sunlight village, inspired creation of Lord Leverhulme. We take a guided tour, visit the museum and art gallery and take a stroll around the delightful gardens.

Thursday ~ a very informative day learning all about hat making at the Hatworks in Stockport in the morning and silk manufacture at Macclesfield in the afternoon.

Friday ~ morning boat ride on the River Weaver including a trip up the amazing Anderton Boat Lift. Enjoy a light lunch before the homeward journey.

*Fully inclusive tour price ~ **£425.00***

No single room supplement. Only a limited number are available so please book early!

This price includes the following:

❖ 4 nights' dinner, bed and breakfast

❖ Coach travel throughout including all excursions

❖ Tour guided throughout by Chris Goode

❖ Admission to the Salt Museum and Arley Hall

❖ Admission to and demos at the Hatworks and Macclesfield Silk Museum

❖ Return Mersey Ferry Cruise and tour and admissions at Port Sunlight

❖ Boat cruise and lift ride at the Anderton Boat Lift together with a light lunch of soup and a sandwich and tea / coffee



English Shires Rambler

Departing Monday 27 September 2010 *For 5 days / 4 nights*

Explore the wonderfully unspoilt and charming countryside of Rutland, Leicestershire and Lincolnshire – likened to the Cotswolds without the crowds! Tour the attractive Lincolnshire Wolds, marvel at the stately grandeur of Burghley House, take a nostalgic ride into the past at the National Tramway Museum and discover traditional skills at Denby Pottery.

Your Short Break Hotel

Sysonby Knoll Hotel, Melton Mowbray – a return of a Good Connections favourite – a charming, friendly, family-run hotel set in its own attractive grounds. Comfortable bedrooms and a pleasant restaurant, lounge and bar. While there is no lift, a number of ground floor rooms are available. The Howling family assure us of a warm welcome.

Your Shortbreak Highlights and Itinerary in Brief

Monday ~ pleasant, non-motorway journey north, halting for coffee at Worlds End Garden Centre and historic Oundle for lunch. A cream tea awaits us on arrival.

Tuesday ~ enjoy morning coffee and a stroll in the elegant surroundings of Teigh Rectory. Full afternoon visit to magnificent Burghley House and gardens.

Wednesday ~ we head into the Peak District to the National Tramway Museum at Crich. Ride the beautifully restored trams through the Victorian town and out into the countryside. Later we visit the fascinating Denby Pottery Visitor Centre.

Thursday ~ full day scenic tour of the lovely Lincolnshire Wolds featuring halts in Sleaford, Horncastle and Woodhall Spa.

Friday ~ we head south into the hills of Leicestershire and on to Northampton for a lunch break. Tea break at Bicester Garden Centre.

*Fully inclusive tour price ~ **£435.00***

*Single room supplement ~ **£48.00** ~ limited number available so please book early!*

This price includes the following:

❖ 4 nights' dinner, bed and breakfast

❖ Coach travel throughout including all excursions

❖ Tour guided throughout by Chris Goode

❖ Admission to Burghley House and gardens

❖ Admission to the National Tramway Museum with unlimited rides

❖ Morning coffee on Tuesday and cream tea on Monday

Yorkshire Christmas Prelude

Departing Monday 29 November 2010 *For 5 days / 4 nights*

Travel with us to fascinating Yorkshire to get into the Christmas spirit on this short break featuring good food and company and a host of interesting attractions. Experience the magical Leeds Christkindl Market and breathtaking lights. See palatial Castle Howard in festive attire, explore the treasures of the National Railway Museum and Royal Armouries and discover traditional boiled sweet making together with many other seasonal treats!

Your Short Break Hotel

Ramada Leeds North Hotel – located at Seacroft in the northern suburbs of Leeds, this fine, modern 3-star hotel incorporates a windmill in its design. Bedrooms are smart and well appointed and a lift serves all floors. Attractive restaurant, bar and lounge.

Your Shortbreak Highlights and Itinerary in brief.

Monday ~ we head north to Chesterfield for a market day lunch halt continuing to Pontefract for a tea halt and to learn all about its connection with liquorice.

Tuesday ~ enjoy an extended morning visit to the National Railway Museum in York. We spend a wonderful afternoon in the stately surroundings of Castle Howard – beautifully adorned and lit for the festive season.

Wednesday ~ morning visit to the Royal Armouries at Leeds – a stunning world class museum offering something for everyone. Explore the impressive Christkindl German Market in Leeds city centre during the afternoon, returning to the hotel through the Christmas illuminations.

Thursday ~ morning visit to the remarkable Piece Hall in Halifax with its fine market. Lunch halt in picturesque Hebden Bridge with a visit to Walkleys Clogs before learning about and sampling traditional boiled sweet making in nearby Elland.

Friday ~ we head south through Sherwood Forest and the Dukeries to Melton Mowbray for a hearty homemade soup and sandwich lunch to set us on our way.

*Fully inclusive tour price ~ **£385.00***

*Single room supplement ~ **£60.00** ~ limited number available so please book early!*

This price includes the following:

❖ 4 nights' dinner, bed and breakfast

❖ Coach travel throughout including all excursions

❖ Tour guided throughout by Chris Goode

❖ Admission to Castle Howard

❖ Admission to the National Railway Museum and Royal Armouries is free

❖ Talk, tour and demo at Dobsons Sweets and visit to Walkley Clogs

❖ Soup and sandwich lunch on Friday

GOOD CONNECTIONS GROUP TRAVEL

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We look forward to seeing you out and about with
Good Connections

BOOKINGS HOTLINE

01905 423075

We'll Meet Again at Llandudno **Tour S1 / 10**

Departing Monday 1 February 2010 **For 5 days / 4 nights**

Travel with us to the elegant seaside resort of Llandudno for a relaxing few days of pure nostalgia, fine food, good company and magnificent scenery. Welcome back to 1945. You have been evacuated to North Wales, but don't worry, the natives are very friendly! Our billet, the lovely St Kilda Hotel, has been running these nostalgic breaks for some years now, so they are used to creating just the right atmosphere. We will experience the grandeur of Snowdonia without the crowds, discover the world of slate, explore some fine towns and attractions and be uniquely entertained. An ideal way to while away those winter blues!

Your Short Break Hotel

St Kilda Hotel – a very comfortable and friendly family-run hotel in a fantastic setting on the central promenade close to the town centre. All bedrooms are well equipped and attractive, and a lift serves all floors. The St Kilda has an award-winning restaurant, so there will be no powdered egg on our visit, just the very best in cuisine. The hotel has a relaxing and spacious lounge and bar. You will be issued with a ration book on arrival with coupons entitling you to a treat a day including free drinks and afternoon teas. Themed entertainment will be provided every night including a wartime quiz and fancy dress night (not compulsory).

Your Short Break Highlights and Itinerary in Brief

Monday ~ north to Llandudno with a lunch break at Dobbies Garden Centre at Shrewsbury. Tea and scones on arrival with plenty of time to relax before dinner.

Tuesday ~ a scenic full-day drive through the mountains of Snowdonia to learn all about slate. We take an underground mine train deep into the mountain at Llechwedd and see the skills of the slate splitter and dresser at the Inigo Jones Slateworks.

Wednesday ~ a shorter day featuring a run over Ogwen Pass to Trefiw Woollen Mill to discover traditional weaving skills. Later we visit pretty Betws y Coed before heading north along the picturesque Conwy Valley for tea and tiffin back at the hotel.

Thursday ~ morning visit to historic Conwy with its splendid castle. Afternoon at leisure in Llandudno with cream tea at the hotel. Fancy dress night tonight!

Friday ~ we travel over the spectacular Horseshoe Pass and down to Langollen. Then on to a delicious carvery lunch at the Lord Moreton Hotel to set us on the way for our homeward journey.

Fully inclusive tour price ~ £325.00

Single room supplement ~ £20.00

This price includes the following:

- ❖ 4 nights' dinner, bed and breakfast together with additional refreshments
- ❖ Coach travel throughout including all excursions
- ❖ Tour guided throughout by Chris Goode
- ❖ Main course carvery lunch with tea / coffee on Friday
- ❖ Mine train tour at Llechwedd and admission to Inigo Jones Slateworks

Springtime in Dorset **Tour S2 / 10**

Departing Monday 22 March 2010 **For 5 days / 4 nights**

The beautiful countryside of Dorset is an ideal destination for a relaxing spring break with its stunning coastline, chocolate box villages, fine historic towns and interesting attractions – we feature the best of Hampshire too! Based in Bournemouth, we will tour the New Forest, discover the magic of Abbotsbury Swannery and Sub-Tropical Gardens, enjoy an afternoon of pure nostalgia at a 1940s variety show, spend a full day at Portsmouth Naval Dockyard with all its attractions and much more.

Your Short Break Hotel

Belvedere Hotel, Bournemouth East Cliff – a long-established Good Connections favourite, this pleasant family-run, 3-star hotel is conveniently located within an easy walk of the pier, seafront, clifftops and town centre shops. Bedrooms are comfortable and well appointed and a lift serves all floors. The hotel has an excellent restaurant, spacious lounges and bars, as well as an indoor heated swimming pool.

Your Short Break Holiday Highlights and Itinerary in Brief

Monday ~ pleasant journey down to Bambridge Park Garden Centre for a coffee break, continuing to Lyndhurst for lunch. Discover the delights and hidden byways of the New Forest on the run through to Bournemouth.

Tuesday ~ enjoy our drive through West Dorset to exquisite Abbotsbury, visiting the Swannery – one of the largest in Europe – see the mass feeding. Afternoon visit to the impressive Sub-Tropical Gardens.

Wednesday ~ morning at leisure in Bournemouth. Afternoon of wonderful nostalgia and entertainment at the Old Tyme Players' 1940s 'Kiss Me Good Night Sergeant Major' show at Hoburne Bashley – cream tea included.

Thursday ~ we visit two very interesting attractions today: Town and Country Experience at Ringwood – a fascinating indoor folk museum – and the Royal Signals Museum at Blandford Camp – to learn all about military communications. We make a market day lunch halt at Blandford Forum.

Friday ~ full day at Portsmouth Naval Dockyard with its many attractions – HMS Victory, Warrior, Royal Naval Museum, Mary Rose, harbour tour, etc.

Fully inclusive tour price ~ £395.00

Single room supplement ~ £40.00

This price includes the following:

- ❖ 4 nights' dinner, bed and breakfast
- ❖ Coach travel throughout including all excursions
- ❖ Tour guided throughout by Chris Goode
- ❖ Admission to Abbotsbury Swannery and Sub-Tropical Gardens
- ❖ Reserved seat at the 1940s Show (brand new show) and cream tea
- ❖ Admission to Ringwood Town and Country and Royal Signals Museum
- ❖ Passport / all attractions ticket for Portsmouth Naval Dockyard



Cream of Devon

Departing Monday 17 May 2010

Tour S3 / 10

For 5 days / 4 nights

This relaxing short break explores the wonderfully unspoilt county of Devon with a new itinerary for 2010. Explore the dramatic wilds of Dartmoor, take a steam train ride along the coast to Kingswear for a relaxing boat cruise up the idyllic River Dart. Enjoy a horse-drawn narrow boat trip and sample a delicious cream tea or two!

Your Short Break Hotel

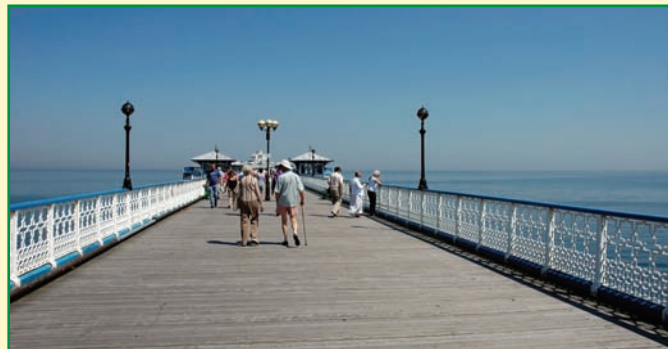
Tiverton Hotel, Tiverton – this fine, modern 3-star hotel is another Good Connections favourite. Located on the edge of town, this hotel offers spacious, well-appointed bedrooms with plenty of ground floor rooms being available. There is an excellent restaurant, bar and lounge.

Your Short Break Highlights and Itinerary in Brief

Monday ~ following a coffee halt at Wyevale Garden Centre at Andover, we head through Wessex to make an extended visit to the Fleet Air Arm Museum at Yeovilton – see the largest collection of naval aircraft in Europe.

Tuesday ~ spend a relaxing morning in the very pretty village of Bickleigh on the banks of the River Exe. Market day lunch break in Tiverton before enjoying a peaceful horse-drawn boat cruise on the picturesque Grand Western Canal with a delicious cream tea.

Wednesday ~ an interesting day featuring a nostalgic ride on the Torbay Steam Railway along the coast from Paignton down to



Kingswear. We then take the ferry over to picturesque Dartmouth for a lunch break. During the afternoon we enjoy a relaxing boat ride up the idyllic River Dart to Totnes.

Thursday ~ a full-day scenic drive around and across Dartmoor, featuring halts in Okehampton, Tavistock (on pannier market day) and atmospheric Princetown where we enjoy a scrummy cream tea.

Friday ~ extended coffee / lunch stop in the historical cathedral city of Wells. We continue over the Mendip Hills to Whitehall Garden Centre for a tea break.

Fully inclusive tour price ~ £435.00

Single room supplement ~ £60.00

This price includes the following:

- ❖ 4 nights' dinner, bed and breakfast
- ❖ Coach travel throughout including all excursions
- ❖ Tour guided throughout by Chris Goode
- ❖ Admission to Fleet Air Arm Museum
- ❖ Horse-drawn boat cruise with cream tea
- ❖ Ride on the Torbay Steam Railway, ferry and boat trip from Dartmouth to Totnes
- ❖ Cream tea at Princetown



How to book

❖ Please book with us direct at Good Connections here in Worcester.

❖ Once you have chosen your short break, the rest is easy. Give our friendly reservation staff a ring on Worcester **01905 423075** (Mon – Fri 0900 – 1700). We will be delighted to answer your questions and make a provisional booking for you. When the office is not manned, please leave a message on our voice mail and we will get back to you as soon as possible. Alternatively, you may book direct with Chris and his colleagues on any Good Connections daytrip or short break.

❖ To confirm your booking, complete the enclosed booking form and pop it in the post with your deposit and we will take care of the rest. Alternatively, please hand your booking form and cheque to our representative on the coach, who will issue you with a receipt.

❖ The deposit payment is £35.00 per head and, providing your booking is made before Monday 30 November 2009, we will deduct £10.00 from the balance you have to pay.

❖ Cheques should be crossed and made payable to **Good Connections**. A receipt will be sent which will confirm the date your balance is due – this will normally be 8 weeks prior to departure.

❖ Coach tickets, luggage labels and a detailed itinerary will be posted to you approximately 4 weeks prior to departure. Your pick-up point and time will be confirmed then.

❖ With our Passenger Protection Insurance Scheme, your booking and monies paid are fully protected in accordance with EC directive 90/314EC – we will issue you with a certificate to explain this.

❖ Please kindly note that due to new FSA regulations we are no longer able to include or arrange insurance in the tour price. We would, however, be happy to provide advice regarding this to ensure you have complete peace of mind in booking your short break with us.

❖ Discounts and special picking up arrangements are available for groups of 10 persons or more.

For further details and bookings please contact:

Chris Goode, Managing Director

GOOD CONNECTIONS

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Gift Vouchers

We are pleased to confirm that gift vouchers are now available for purchase for any value for use towards the cost of any Good Connections Short Break or Daytrip and are valid for up to two years from the date of issue.

Gift vouchers are supplied with an attractive card and envelope, making an ideal gift for family and friends. For voucher orders of £50.00 and over a discount of 5% is available – an ideal way to pay for your future trip if you are a regular traveller. Please contact us on **01905 423075** for full details.