

walkabout: london

walkabout: an adventure of discovery
filled with wisdom to be unearthed



The best of London/Oxford/the Cotswolds
September 5-13, 2020

your guide

Shelly Wildman



Hi! I'm Shelly, and I will be your guide for 8 days throughout London and the surrounding area. My first trip to the UK was in 1984 when, as a college student studying in Oxford for the summer, my life was forever changed by the landscape, the people, and the stories I experienced there. Simply put, I fell in love.

Over the years, I have been back to England many times, each time exploring different parts of the country, but always touching base with London, one of my favorite cities in the world.

As I've written about my trips and posted photos online, friends began to ask me if I'd ever consider leading a group. Many women have either never traveled overseas, are hesitant to travel alone, or simply love being a part of a group. For whatever reason, there seemed to be an interest. At first I laughed it off, but my family kept saying, "You should do it!" So here I am.

During my first trip to England and in each subsequent trip, one thing has been consistent: I have grown to know and love God more each time I travel. There is something about being in another culture, meeting people who are different from me, and seeing the beautiful landscape that has opened my eyes to the wonder, beauty, creativity, and love of God.

So whether you already know God personally or would like to know more about Him, I invite you to join us on this part-travel-tour/part-spiritual-retreat. We will spend time each day reflecting on one aspect of God, then looking for Him as we visit various sights in London and beyond.

This trip will be about exploring a big world and getting to know an even bigger God.

Won't you join me?

Shelly



your trip

London

London is . . . kings and queens; castles and cathedrals; markets and more.

Perhaps you already have experienced the bustle of London, seen the main sights, but long for more. Perhaps you have wished for someone to take you to their favorite sights and to explain why they love London as much as you do.

Or perhaps you've never been able to see London before, but you have an image in your mind of what it's like. Trust me, London is more than you can imagine. It's parks and history and shopping and museums. But it's also great food and theater and a diverse city like none other.

My best days in London have been the days I've let my feet do the talking, following narrow lanes into obscure parks or traversing down tree-lined streets. We will walk on this trip, so be sure to prepare for that. It's the best way to see the city.

Oxford

Oxford is books and rivers and limestone and learning. Oxford is charming and historic and such a part of UK lore that you just have to see it.

C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, Lewis Carroll, Oscar Wilde, Dorothy Sayers, and so many more have hailed from Oxford. You'll be inspired just being there, and perhaps your creativity will be unleashed as it has not been before.

We'll visit Christ Church, where the famous dining hall was the inspiration for J.K. Rowling's Hogwart's great hall. And we'll stop at The Eagle and Child, known best as the meeting place of the Inklings—those famous writers, Lewis and Tolkien among them, who met there to discuss their stories and ideas.

The Cotswolds

The Cotswolds is an area just beyond London and Oxford, famous for its idyllic villages, beautiful vistas, and Downton Abby locations. We'll spend a day in this beautiful corner of the country, but beware—you'll be wishing for more.

your itinerary

Day 1

Saturday: Arrival in London; Welcome dinner at local pub

Schedule your arrival in the morning, and make your way to our home for the week. Spend the afternoon settling in, getting to know your fellow travelers, and walking around the neighborhood. Anything to stay awake! (I highly recommend a shower to refresh yourself.) We will enjoy an early dinner together at a local pub, then head back to the house for a nice, long sleep.

Meals: dinner

Day 2

Sunday: Get acquainted/Why I travel/God of the Whole World

Each morning we will enjoy a continental breakfast together at the house. We will spend about an hour reflecting on one aspect of God's character through a brief devotional time and some quiet time alone. Later, we will hit the town to see some of the major tourist sights of London (you have to see them after all!). We will then head to Westminster Abbey for an Evensong Service at 3:00 pm, followed by dinner in Covent Garden.

Meals: breakfast; dinner

Day 3

Monday: God, Our King

Today we'll focus on Kings and Queens as we visit Windsor, the sight of many royal weddings, most recently of Meghan and Harry, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. We'll take the train to Windsor where we'll see some sights and have lunch on your own. Later, we'll indulge in afternoon tea, either in Windsor or back in London. Dinner will be lighter fare (think snacks) back at the house or you can have dinner on your own in London.

Meals: breakfast, afternoon tea, light dinner

Day 4

Tuesday: God, our Teacher

Today we will visit the home of "proper" education, Oxford. We'll travel by train (it's about an hour outside of London) and meet up with a guide who will show us this beautiful, walkable city. Christ Church and The Eagle and Child will definitely be on our itinerary, as well as other famous Oxford sights you may not even know about.

Meals: breakfast

Day 5

Wednesday: God, our Provider

Today will be about the many ways God provides for us, mainly through food! We'll visit my London "happy place," Borough Market, where we'll eat lunch and experience all the gastronomic pleasures that London has to offer. Afterwards, we'll head just around the corner for a tour of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. You'll have the rest of the afternoon to explore on your own, and we'll enjoy dinner together in a local restaurant later.

Meals: breakfast, dinner

Day 6

Thursday: God, our Rest

While we will still spend some time reflecting in the morning, the rest of the day is yours to enjoy. I can offer suggestions for day trips, museums, or shopping. The day is yours! Dinner on your own. This might be a good day to take in some theatre in the evening.

Meals: breakfast

your itinerary

Day 7

Friday: God, our Creator

Today we'll enjoy the beauty of God's creation in the Cotswolds. We'll travel with a guide who will show us some of the most gorgeous scenery in the country. We may even see a Downton Abby sight or two! Be sure to wear good walking shoes as many of the villages have cobblestone streets. We'll enjoy dinner in a Cotswold village before returning to London.

Meals: breakfast, dinner

Day 8

Saturday: God, our Shelter

Today we'll explore some of the more hidden treasures of London as we head to Hampstead, known as the section of London where artists and writers like to live. We'll visit Keats house and enjoy the view from Hampstead Heath. We'll enjoy our final farewell dinner together in a restaurant before packing up to head home.

Meals: breakfast, dinner

Day 9

Sunday: Time to depart

After a very full week, it's time to head home. I hope you'll take some time on the flight to reflect on what we've shared during the week and on what you've come to know about God as we've explored his beautiful creation, England.

Meal: breakfast





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We may ignore, but we can nowhere evade, the presence of God. The world is crowded with Him. He walks everywhere incognito.

C. S. Lewis

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- 8 nights' accommodation in a London home or apartment
- Airport transfers
- 8 continental breakfasts
- 6 dinners
- 1 Afternoon Tea
- Entrance fees to
 - Windsor Castle
 - Shakespeare's Globe
 - Keats' House
 - Christ Church, Oxford
- Transportation to Windsor, Oxford, and the Cotswolds
- Oyster Card (Tube pass) for 7 days
- Walking tour of Oxford
- Day in the Cotswolds with private guide
- Walking tour of Hampstead
- Retreat notebook/guidebook

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Flight to London
- Travel insurance, if desired
- Theatre tickets, if desired
- Any additional sights
- Lunch every day
- 2 dinners
- Gratuities for drivers/guides

Dates: September 5-13, 2020

Cost: \$3,000 for double room
\$3,200 for single room (3 available)
(Early bird discount of \$100 if you sign up by 10/30/19. Your deposit reserves your spot.)

Non-refundable deposit of \$500 due 1/1/20

Additional \$1,000 payment due 4/1/20

Remainder due 7/1/20