

Travel



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O&E Thursday, April 4, 1985

Europe: Cathedrals, castles, river trips await

PEOPLE WHO LIKE cathedrals, castles, castle hotels and historic settings have a plethora of excursions they could consider before making vacation plans.

What brought tours to mind was a conversation with Beverly Buchanan of Christ Church Cranbrook which is sponsoring a 17-day tour to England in May.

The church's Anglican Heritage Tour will visit abbeys and cathedrals, universities and cities to explore places that gave birth to the Episcopal tradition. It will be led by

Iris Jones contributing travel editor.

Almus Thorp, rector of Christ Church Cranbrook, and will include famous places like Canterbury, York, Cambridge, Durham, Wells, Salisbury, Coventry, Winchester and, of course, London.

The tour is from May 20 through June 5 so anyone who is interested in joining the group should act quickly. The cost is \$2,249 per person, double occupancy; single supplement, \$220. This kind of tour is seldom low-cost, and the prices quoted are based on a minimum of 30 paying passengers. That price includes air fare, accommodations, some meals, tours, etc.

For more information, contact Beverly at Christ Church Cranbrook, 644-5210 or at home, 649-5045.

THE CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL Trust in America also sponsors a 14-day travel-study tour of Canterbury and the chateaux and Benedictine monasteries of the Loire region, England, Sept. 19. Tour members will be led on a candlelit tour of Canterbury Cathedral, and visit Leeds Castle and St. Mary's Abbey in England.

In France they will tour the Abbey of St. Wandrille near Rouen, the Abbey of Bec-Hellouin near Tours, the Royal Abbey of Fontevraud in Saumur, the Abbey of St. Benoit and Rheims Cathedral. They will also visit the famous chateaux of the Loire. In the final day, in London, the group will be invited to lunch with members of the House of Lords.

It will cost \$2,210 per person but the Trust literature assures us that 10 percent of that money is tax-deductible. That price covers 14 nights accommo-



dations, 13 lunches, 12 dinners, all housekeeping etc. The single supplement is \$300. The price apparently does not include air fare.

TRAVEL TIME OF CHICAGO, which specializes in classic travel holidays, will offer its annual edition of Brideshead and Beyond, a tour inspired by Evelyn Waugh's novel "Brideshead Revisited." For 23 days from June 14 to July 6, travelers will enjoy some of the grand living epitomized by the book and the subsequent television series.

The tour will include visits to the television filming sites, a day at Royal Ascot, and overnight on the Orient Express and dinner in the British Parliament building. All that will be followed by a seven-day cruise aboard the Sea

Goddess to the "fabled yacht resorts of the Mediterranean."

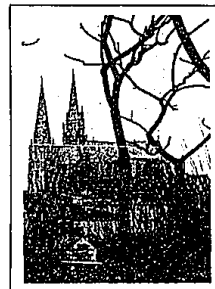
It's always difficult to separate the real travel from the brochure glamor, but this tour certainly provides both the historic land tour and the vacation at sea for those who want to do both. Contact your travel agent or telephone toll-free 1-800-621-4725.

If you don't like group tours, but you don't really want to go on your own, consider Lyness Tours, described as "chauffeur-driven scenic safaris of Devon and Cornwall." You can share a Jaguar saloon car with others or reserve it entirely for yourself, but either way you'll have a chauffeur at the wheel.

THEY'LL PLAN personalized tours

Tours abound in Europe. One of the most enjoyable is the trip down the Thames River in a luxury hotel barge (left). Guests enjoy leisurely meals while the barge slowly goes through the countryside. Other tours enable visitors to see such things as the town square (right) in Chester, England; Chambord, a chateau (below) in the Loire Valley of France at Henrich; and the cathedral at Chartres, France.

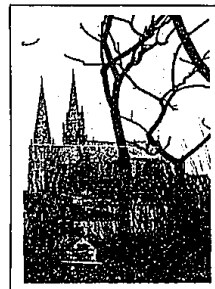
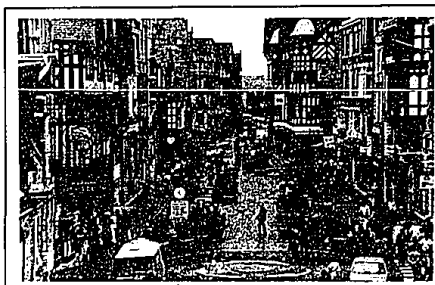
Photos/Iris Jones



to public gardens, castles, museums and churches, and deliver you to the door of the manor houses and quaint hotels chosen to fit the mood of elegance and hospitality. Sound expensive? It is: \$2,400 for one, \$1,465 each for two, \$1,135 each for three, for six nights and seven days plus air fare.

Please note that I have never taken these tours, so I can't possibly recommend them. There are people who are willing to spend high dollar for such vacations however, so I want you to know about them.

One high-dollar English vacation that I have taken is a trip down the Thames River on a luxury hotel barge marketed by Floating Through Europe. It was certainly the best trip I took that year.



THESE HOTEL barges, which are also available in the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and France, take a very small group of people on a slow river voyage aboard a commercial barge that has been converted into a small floating hotel.

It took a week to float the 50 miles from Windsor to Oxford on the Thames, a lazy week of casual clothes, gourmet food, and afternoons wandering through tiny villages forgotten by time. The rooms are tiny and the deck is small, but it is a lovely leisurely way to see England as the Normans saw it centuries ago.

Seven days on the Thames cost from \$1,000 to \$1,200 per person double occupancy. You can do three nights for \$685 per person. Call your travel agent or call Floating Through Europe toll-free 1-800-221-3140.

There are several companies offering these luxury barge tours. Salen Lindblad Cruising got into the act this year with "King's England," a 16-day 12-passenger expedition from Windsor to London aboard what has been described as "one of the most luxurious vessels in the world."

If this is true, it breaks with the barge tradition: they are simple, although the food and service are always good.

THE LINDBLAD tour includes royal names like Runnymede, Hampton Court, Richmond and the Royal Park-

land of Syon where "special permission has been granted . . . for a lace and crystal picnic lunch in the Privy Garden of the Queen." Those brochure writers will get you every time.

The rates for this 16-day trip, which includes the cruise, meals, accommodations, bus from London to Windsor and the usual sightseeing are \$2,500 per person double occupancy and \$2,800 single. Call 1-800-225-5688 or your travel agent.

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CAN-AM

Michigan selected top tourist state

Michigan has been rated among the top states in the country for tourism festivals and events for four years, according to the American Bus Association (ABA).

The ABA prepared a list of "Top 100 Events in North America" for 1985 and listed Michigan as one of only seven states and two Canadian provinces in its selections.

Among the state events cited were the Plymouth Ice Sculpture Spectacular, Battle Creek's World Hot Air Balloon Championship and the Franken-

mouth Music Fest. Michigan also shared with Ontario the honor of having the International Freedom Festival in Detroit and Windsor.

Holland's Tulip Festival, "Frankenmouth's" Bavarian Festival and Dearborn's Christmas at Greenfield Village were selected in previous years.

The ABA, which promotes motor-coach tours all across North America, selected what it considered the best attractions from among nominations in 46 states, Washington D.C. and seven Canadian provinces.

"This selection constitutes recognition of Michigan's great appeal for tourists and enhances our efforts to promote the state's strong and fast growing tourism industry," said John Savitch, director of the state Department of Commerce's Travel Bureau.

The Auto Club of Michigan recently noted that some \$477 million worth of tourism-related construction is set for Michigan this year.

This includes Olympic-type facilities, festival marketplaces, Cobo Hall expansion and \$166 million in new lodging facilities.

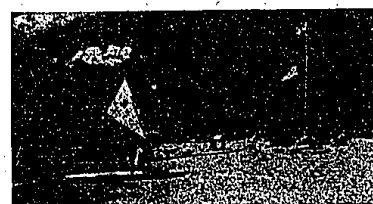
AAA Michigan Travel Operations Manager James Drury said the amount of construction "shows significant growth for Michigan tourism, an industry which last year pumped \$11.4 billion into the economy and provided more than 250,000 jobs.

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Altos de Chavon, the artist's colony.



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See Your Travel Agent For Full Details

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