

## **SUMMARY**

Brenda, Elaina and I finished our tour with *Great Rail Journeys*. Here are some highlights.

England is 8 hours ahead of Tucson. Most of the receipts in England included 20% VAT, so we did not tip. Cost of regular gasoline is over \$7.00 per gallon; many vehicles are diesel with manual transmissions.

### **Day 2**

#### **September 5**

Arrived yesterday but time was 12:30pm (4:30am in Tucson).

Visited the Clipper ship *Cutty Sark* and went to Royal Observatory.

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjATzML>

Tour begins at hotel, DoubleTree - Hyde Park. We spent first 2 nights and last 2 nights here. Most breakfasts were included on tour, but not every dinner.

Our main tour guide, Garth Long, volunteers as a signalman on Heritage steam railway at [Watercress Line](#) near Portsmouth, England. On this tour we rode 10 trains from London to York to Edinburgh to Glasgow to Fort William to Liverpool to Bristol.

## **Day 3**

### **September 6**

Bus tour around London. Local guide explained all the particulars about some monarchs. Prince Albert was especially loved. Watched changing of the guards at Buckingham Palace. Took first train ride from King's Cross Railroad station to York for evening. Some of York was visible from hotel. Brenda & I had twin beds; she said the shower was bigger.

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjATRxg>

## **Day 4**

### **September 7**

Elaina took walking tour of York. Photos are hers.

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAU2KG>

Another tour member went to National Railway Museum to view fastest steam engine in the world, The Mallard. Photos are his:

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjATWAR>

Took train ride #2 from York to Edinburgh seeing the North Sea and crossing into Scotland.

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjATXw9>

## **Day 5**

### **September 8**

Walking tour around Edinburgh taking in the city's main sights. Every day (except Sundays, Good Friday and Christmas Day) at noon there are [cannons](#) being fired for about 5 minutes.

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAU1aw>

## **Day 6**

### **September 9**

We took 2 trains today. First was from Edinburgh to Glasgow where we caught second to Fort William. Overnight at Nevis Bank Inn. Longer day tomorrow, but trip is on Jacobite Steam Engine.

Today's photos:

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAU5qD>

## **Day 7**

### **September 10**

Highlight of the tour for us. We rode the Jacobite Steam Engine train from Fort William to Mallaig. We missed photos of the Glenfinnan Viaduct (see *Harry Potter* movie). On the return bus trip we were to have stopped but parking lot was full. We DID see the steam engine going back to Fort William near the locks. Traveled to Glasgow for the evening arriving 9:30 PM

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAUnbk>

## **Day 8**

### **September 11**

Took 2 trains to Liverpool where we spent 2 nights.

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAUBCa>

## **Day 9**

### **September 12**

Lunch at “The Railway”.

Museum visit to “Western Approaches HQ” secret bunker that changed the war; see Battle of the Atlantic.

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAUyFm>

Birds in park. Monument to the Titanic.

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAUz6j>

I also did laundry at the laundromat this morning. Met people from Uruguay, Christchurch, NZ, and Germany. Elaina shared her pictures from Beatles touring.

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAUEQy>

## **Day 10**

### **September 13**

Travel day from Liverpool to Bristol. Took **3** train rides today.

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAUBtN>

## **Day 11**

### **September 14**

While most of the tour went to Bath, I opted to go to the Clifton Suspension Bridge. It was completed in 1864. City bus was impressive; dedicated lanes through ‘downtown’ area. Many pedestrians but they are most careful, so traffic moves quite smoothly.

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAUKjt>

And Elaina traveled to the historic city of Bath. Here are her photos from there.

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAUMMV>

## **Day 12**

### **September 15**

Spent time on bus today first traveling to Stonehenge and then to our hotel in London where we started.

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAUN47>

## **Day 13**

### **September 16**

Final full day in London. Went to the Tower of London and watched them open the gate. Saw the Crown Jewels, but no photography allowed.

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAUTCz>

## **Day 14**

### **September 17**

Taxi to Heathrow for trip to Hamburg. **Security is intense**; we've never seen them review everything that the scanning process filters. Security emptied bags and tested many items before we were able to retrieve. Of course, they confiscated items that were too many ml in size. Flight was delayed an hour due to weather and traffic control. Taxi to hotel, quiet ride and beautiful city.

## **Day 15**

### **September 18**

Tickets to [Miniatur Wunderland](#), the world's largest model railway. Huge exhibit with large audience. Highlights for me were kangaroo surfing, DHL airplane taking off, Vesuvius erupting. Here are my photos and videos. Please note the details.

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAV71K>

## **Day 16-17**

### **September 19-20**

After staying another night in Hamburg we flew back to London for final night. Flight home left at 9:30am and returned to Phoenix at 12:30pm (3 hours + 8 hours time difference).

Here are some final photos:

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAWjjn>