

TRAVELER OF THE QUARTER

Stonehenge



Picnic at Sudeley Castle



GEORGY (GEORGANN) COLLIER

Greetings, fellow travelers!

Embarking on a first-time journey to England with a group of twelve women, all strangers, unfolded into an adventure of discovery and camaraderie as we journeyed through Cotswold. The expedition began in the historic city of Bath, where the ancient Roman Baths not only told tales of a bygone era but also echoed the originality of early civilizations. The group then wandered through the lush splendor of Highgrove Gardens, an estate that whispers the legacy of King Charles, all-encompassing visitors in royal horticultural excellence. In Bibury, time seemed to stand still among the historical churches and the architectural marvels, while the Woollen Weavers offered a glimpse into the fabric of local craftsmanship.

The journey continued to Fairford, where the group hiked through the charming village, each step revealing layers of rural beauty and tranquility. Kelmscott Manor, the residence of William Morris, stood as a testament to the Arts and Crafts movement, inspiring the visitors with its rich artistic heritage. The evening in Broadway was a cultural feast, featuring a Punch and Judy puppet show, a traditional British performance that, through the guidance of our good-natured host Sally, became an enlightening experience rather than an unsettling one.

As the group roamed along the river to Winchcombe, the picturesque scenery was complemented by the noble presence of a peacock at Sudeley Castle, which followed us around as we enjoyed a picnic on the lush grounds. The silhouette of Broadway Tower against the sky stirred imaginations, evoking fairy-tale fantasies of Rapunzel. The journey concluded with a heartfelt farewell dinner on Mother's Day, leaving a permanent mark of joy and unity.

The entire trip was orchestrated by an extraordinarily knowledgeable and friendly tour guide Andrew, whose insights and anecdotes enriched the experience. We also found opportunities to create our own agenda items where we ventured to the unfathomable Stonehenge, a prehistoric marvel that stands as a sentinel of time. Saturday evening, we sat on the steam train, which offered a moment of reflection and a peaceful conclusion to an enchanting stay where every participant felt touched by graciousness.

The culinary delights throughout the trip were nothing short of marvelous, with each meal capturing the essence of English cuisine, my favorite being the scones and cream. The sights and sounds of England painted a canvas of beauty, each village having its own color of stone that was both vibrant in color and breathtaking as we walked along, what felt like, endless fields and gardens. The quaint little shops, where we could visit with locals and find little treasures of souvenirs and memories, each item holding the promise of stories to be told. This journey, a tapestry of historical wonders, natural beauty, and human connection, was a celebration of exploration and the formation of unexpected friendships. It was an experience that would be cherished forever, a first-time trip to England that felt like a journey home.

Joyful regards,

Georgy



Camaraderie



Broadway Tower



Tall Tour Guide Andrew