

Uncovering Camelot

A JOURNEY THROUGH ARTHURIAN BRITAIN

*“Hic jacet Arthurus, Rex quondam,
Rexque futurus ...”* —Sir Thomas Malory

A SCHOLARLY
SOJORN

LITERATURE, LANDSCAPE, AND HISTORY COME ALIVE ON THIS
STUNNING TOUR ACROSS SOUTHWESTERN BRITAIN

TOUR DETAILS AT A GLANCE

2017 DEPARTURE

October 8—15, 2017

PRICE

\$2,895/person (double occupancy)

\$3,290/person (single occupancy)

TOUR BEGINS

Swansea, Wales

TOUR CONCLUDES

Glastonbury, England

OPTIONAL AIR PACKAGE

From \$1,299/person *

*See page 10 for details

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE](#)

ABOUT SCHOLARLY SOJOURNS

Not only our name, but what we call our flagship tours, Scholarly Sojourns are intellectually-stimulating vacations that explore subjects found in the traditional liberal arts curriculum. Designed and guided by distinguished professors, these engaging journeys provide the unique opportunity to explore a subject on location.



Roche Rock in Cornwall—Tristan and Isolde's hideaway

Uncovering Camelot

A JOURNEY THROUGH ARTHURIAN BRITAIN

From very early, somewhat-historical works to Thomas Malory's classic *Morte d'Arthur*, and from Tennyson's celebrated *Idylls of the King* to T.H. White's masterpiece *The Once and Future King*, tales of Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table have for centuries captivated the imagination of readers with gripping tales of chivalry, valor, and romance. But the truly remarkable number of references in these works to actual sites and locations in Britain have led many curious historians and archaeologists to investigate the actual distance between fact and fiction.

This imaginative sojourn transports us in place and time through beautiful Southwestern Britain to visit some of the most notable sites of Arthurian lore and to examine both their historical and literary connections. The settings for the tales are in one sense mythical, but we discover they also contain deep roots in the medieval English countryside—a varied and evocative terrain that most certainly informed the psyche of countless writers of Arthurian tales.

“Quest” is a theme at the very heart of all Arthurian romance, whether its object is honor, glory, love, or the Holy Grail. As we travel, our quest will be to recover some of the mystery and excitement from both the land and literature by investigating the real historical and archaeological evidence behind these legends.

In *Morte d'Arthur*, Malory reminds readers: “Yet some men say in many parts of England that King Arthur is not dead . . . many men say that there is written upon his tomb this verse: *Hic jacet Arthurus, Rex quondam, Rexque futurus* (Here lies Arthur, the once and future King).” Arthur may sleep still, but on this unique tour we will invoke his spirit and explore a variety of Arthurian texts as we travel through the landscapes that inspired them. Together we will ponder questions that have enthralled readers for ages. Could there have actually been a King Arthur? Was there an Excalibur? A Round Table? Did Camelot exist? Join us on this imaginative journey and you may find yourself closer to answering these questions than you ever imagined.

Day-to-Day Tour Summary

DAY 1 - ARRIVE IN SOUTH WALES

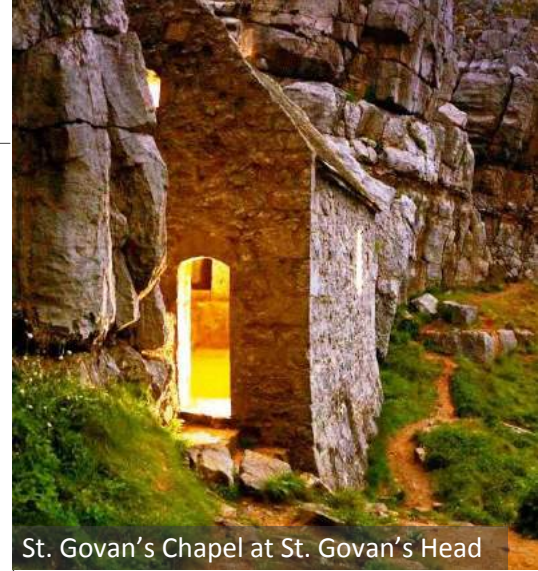
Arriving in beautiful South Wales this morning, you transfer to the Craig-y-Nos Castle Hotel in scenic Brecon Beacons National Park. You are greeted by your Scholarly Sojourns Tour Director who assists you with checking in, and then you are free to relax or explore until our departure for Carreg Cennen Castle this afternoon. There you enjoy a private, guided tour by a local historian followed by some time to explore on your own. This evening you join fellow sojourn members and your leader, Professor Dorsey Armstrong, for the opening reception and keynote address followed by our welcome dinner. An informal pub gathering is held afterward for those who wish to enjoy conversation and a nightcap. (R,D)

DAY 2 - CARMARTHEN AND PEMBROKESHIRE COAST

We travel west this morning through Carmarthenshire to the picturesque town of Carmarthen—legendary birthplace of the wizard Merlin. Here we explore a number of sites associated with the magical character, including Merlin's Tree, Merlin's Hill, and Merlin's Stone, before enjoying some free time to explore the town. Continuing west, we travel to the Preseli Mountains. Legend tells us Merlin flew the stones for Stonehenge from these mysterious mountains. We drive through scenic Pembrokeshire Coast National Park to explore some noted landmarks with Arthurian connections before arriving at Lake Bosherton—one of the possible resting places for Excalibur. Nearby, we also visit stunning St. Govan's Head, where Sir Gawain is said to have settled as a hermit following the death of Arthur and later was buried after his own death. Upon our return to Pen-y-Cae, the evening is free to spend as you please. A shuttle to the seaside town of Swansea is available for those who desire a night out. (B)

DAY 3 - CAERLEON TO USK

We depart Brecon Beacons and the Craig-y-Nos Castle Hotel today and head east. Our first stop is Caerleon—site of a Roman fortress as well as a location redolent with Arthurian connections. According to Geoffrey of Monmouth this was the site of Arthur's court. Following an expertly-guided tour of the impressive site, which once housed 6,000 Roman soldiers and includes the best-preserved Roman amphitheater in Britain and the finest remains of Roman barrack buildings in Europe, we pay a brief visit to the celebrated Hanbury Arms—the hostelry where Tennyson



St. Govan's Chapel at St. Govan's Head

ITINERARY OVERVIEW

DAY 1: SUNDAY

October 8

Tour begins Pen-y-Cae, South Wales

DAY 2: MONDAY

October 9

Pen-y-Cae - Pembrokeshire - Pen-y-Cae

DAY 3: TUESDAY

October 10

Pen-y-Cae - Caerleon - Monmouth - Usk

DAY 4: WEDNESDAY

October 11

Usk - Bodmin Moor - Camelford - Tintagel

DAY 5: THURSDAY

October 12

Tintagel - Land's End - Penzance - Tintagel

DAY 6: FRIDAY

October 13

Tintagel - Cadbury - Bath - Wells

DAY 7: SATURDAY

October 14

Wells - Old Sarum - Avebury - Stonehenge - Wells

DAY 8: SUNDAY

October 15

Tour concludes in Glastonbury



Eilem Stacks in Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Enjoy three days in beautiful South Wales and visit both Brecon Beacons and Pembrokeshire Coast National Parks
- ◆ Enjoy privately-guided visits to the Roman ruins at Caerleon and Caerwent
- ◆ See the natural wonders of the Green Arch of Wales, the Elegug Stacks, and St. Govan's Head
- ◆ Drive along the Wye River Valley, see Tintern Abbey, and explore King Arthur's Cave
- ◆ Spend two days in charming Cornwall, England and visit the celebrated towns of Porthleven, Marizion, and Penzance
- ◆ Take a private, guided tour of the castle and gardens on St. Michael's Mount



Land's End—mainland England's most westerly point

Day-to-Day Tour Summary

lodged while writing *Idylls of the King* in 1856. Following lunch we continue on to visit two other contenders for the location of Camelot—Llanmelin, an iron-age hill fort, and the former Roman town of Caerwent, which still retains impressive sections of its original walls. This afternoon we drive through the picturesque Wye River Valley—and past famed Tintern Abbey—to a remote site near the town of Monmouth. Here we explore Arthur's Cave—perched high upon a bluff above the river—which some archaeologists believe was inhabited as far back as the Stone Age. This evening we arrive in the charming town of Usk where we settle into our atmospheric hotel and enjoy some free time before gathering at our own round table for an engaging seminar dinner. (B,D)

DAY 4 - USK TO TINTAGEL

We depart Usk this morning and cross the famed Severn Bridge into England before heading southwest toward Cornwall. As we travel, the landscape begins to change and we see the iconic, sleepy ports and atmospheric coves for which this area of Britain is renowned. Our first stop is Bodmin Moor—an area filled with sites associated with Arthur. We visit Arthur's Bed, Arthur's Hall, and finally Dozmary Pool—another possible resting place for Excalibur. Following lunch, we travel to Slaughterbridge near the town of Camelford, argued by some historians to be a possible location of Camelot. Here we view a sixth-century stone inscribed to mark the spot where King Arthur was mortally wounded by Mordred in an epic battle that marked the end of the fellowship of the Knights of the Round Table. A short ride takes us to Tintagel Castle, an archaeological site infused with legend and mystery, most significantly the reputed birthplace of King Arthur. We spend the remainder of the afternoon exploring this fascinating site and then find our hotel for the next two nights—the Camelot Castle Hotel—just a short walk away in the charming village of Tintagel. Following check-in, the remainder of the evening is yours to spend as you see fit. (B)

DAY 5 - LAND'S END, ST. MICHAEL'S MOUNT AND ROCHE ROCK

We depart early this morning and travel to the very tip of Great Britain—to Land's End—mainland England's most westerly point. Here we look over the sea toward the Isles of Scilly. Some historians believe these to be the Isle of Avalon where Arthur was brought to be buried. Continuing along the Cornish Coast, we see the

“This was an amazing, once-in-a-lifetime experience that I will take with me personally and professionally for the rest of my life.”

- Scott K., Waltham, MA

Day-to-Day Tour Summary

Minack Theatre, an open-air arena carved into a cliffside and overlooking the spectacular panorama of Porthcurno Bay. From there we travel to the famed harbor town of Penzance for lunch and some free time to explore the shops and galleries that line its narrow streets. This afternoon we cross by boat to visit iconic St. Michael's Mount, where legends tell of an epic battle between King Arthur and a mythical giant named Cormoran who supposedly lived on the mount. Our final stop is haunting Roche Rock—a unique outcrop of rock with a tiny chapel perched atop—said to be the hiding place of the lovers Tristan and Isolde. Upon our return to Tintagel this evening, we gather for dinner and discussion in a most fitting setting at the Camelot Castle Hotel. (B,D)

DAY 6 - SOMERSET TO WELLS

We travel east to Somerset this morning to visit the enormous, ancient hill fort known as Cadbury Castle. For centuries this prominent outcrop has been linked to King Arthur and widely regarded as one of the main contenders for the location of Camelot. Archaeological excavations have uncovered clear evidence of occupation during the Iron Age, and some locals believe that King Arthur still lies sleeping in a cave within the hill. We enjoy a Scholarly Sojourns signature picnic at the foot of this remarkable site before continuing to majestic Bath, a city so historically significant that it has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Here we consider how many historians, including Geoffrey of Monmouth, claim Bath to be the site of Arthur's last great battle, known as the Battle of Badon Hill, and then enjoy a generous period of free time to explore the city on our own. This afternoon we take a scenic drive through the breathtaking Cheddar Gorge—an amazing natural phenomenon that is Britain's largest gorge—which rewards us with stunning views. A short drive from here we find our resting place for the next two nights in Wells, England's smallest city and home to a celebrated 8th-century cathedral that is widely regarded as one of the most unusual and beautiful cathedrals in Britain. After checking into our historic hotel, the evening is free to explore the city's atmospheric, medieval streets and perhaps enjoy one (or more) of its traditional pubs. (B,L)



St. Michael's Mount

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ An afternoon in the majestic city of Bath—a UNESCO World Heritage City—with time for sightseeing, shopping, and visiting the Roman Baths
- ◆ Enjoy a private, guided walking tour of the town of Glastonbury including visits to the Chalice Well and Glastonbury Abbey
- ◆ Experience a Scholarly Sojourns signature picnic in the shadows of Cadbury Castle
- ◆ Drive through stunning Cheddar Gorge—the largest gorge in Britain
- ◆ Explore the stunning prehistoric monuments of Stonehenge, Avebury Stone Circle, and Pentre Ifan
- ◆ Visit the historic ruins of Carreg Cennen Castle, Cilgerran Castle, and Tintagel Castle



Tintern Abbey

“Your attention to detail is way beyond any tour operator I have ever worked with!”

- Paula F., Travel Agent,
Mahwah, NJ

WHAT YOU SEE

CARREG CENNEN CASTLE
PRESILI MOUNTAINS
LAKE BOSHERTON
ST. GOVAN’S HEAD
HANBURY ARMS
LLANMELIN
TINTERN ABBEY
ARTHUR’S CAVE
SEVERN BRIDGE
BODMIN MOOR
DOZMARY POOL
SLAUGHTERBRIDGE
TINTAGEL CASTLE
LAND’S END
PENZANCE
ST. MICHAEL’S MOUNT
ROCHE ROCK
CADBURY CASTLE
CITY OF BATH
CHEDDAR GORGE
OLD SARUM
AVEBURY
STONEHENGE
GLASTONBURY ABBEY
CHALICE WELL

Day-to-Day Tour Summary

DAY 7 - OLD SARUM TO STONEHENGE

Following breakfast and our briefing this morning, we depart to encounter three of the most significant prehistoric sites in Britain. Our first stop is Old Sarum—a fascinating Iron Age hilltop settlement that some argue may have been the location of Camelot. Afterward, we travel to one of the best known prehistoric sites in Britain and the largest stone circle in Europe at Avebury—a Neolithic henge monument containing three stone circles surrounding the village of the same name. It has been argued that this site was built to commemorate the final battle of King Arthur, and that Arthur's slain warriors lie buried here. Our final stop is Stonehenge—the most-visited and most impressive prehistoric site in Britain and the best-known prehistoric monument in Europe. Although the site has no clear origin, it has been written that Merlin was responsible for its construction as a memorial on the site of a 5th-century massacre. After returning to Wells, our day concludes with a pleasant reception held in the shadow of its beautiful cathedral followed by a special farewell dinner this evening. (B,R,D)

DAY 8 - TOUR ENDS IN GLASTONBURY

Following breakfast we travel to nearby Glastonbury to enjoy a guided walking tour which leads us to sites such as Chalice Well, the purported resting place of the Holy Grail. Those who wish can climb Glastonbury Tor—an ancient hill set in the middle of the remarkable Summerland Meadows plain which offers panoramic views of the surrounding countryside. We conclude with a visit to Glastonbury Abbey, home to the purported tomb of King Arthur and Queen Guinevere, which was discovered in 1191. It is fitting, perhaps, that our tour draws to a close here as we say our good-byes, not only to each other, but also to the “Once and Future King” whose rich legacy brought us together for this amazing journey. (B)



Stonehenge



The ruins of Glastonbury Abbey

Visiting the Chalice Well

One of Britain's most ancient wells, Chalice Well is nestled in the Vale of Avalon between the famous Glastonbury Tor and Chalice Hill. For over two thousand years it has been a place where people have gathered to drink the waters and find solace, peace and inspiration. Many legends are attributed to its waters which flow ceaselessly at a steady rate and temperature that never varies. Not the least among these legends is that Joseph of Arimathea came to Britain bearing the cup used by Jesus Christ at the Last Supper, and then, later, by Joseph himself to collect the blood of Christ at his crucifixion. Joseph buried the cup that would come to be known as the Holy Grail just below Glastonbury Tor near the entrance to the Underworld, and shortly thereafter the spring now known as Chalice Well miraculously flowed from the ground and the water that emerged brought eternal youth to whosoever would drink it. Intertwining the myths and legends of Glastonbury history, it is widely believed that finding the Holy Grail was the purpose behind the quests of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table.



Chalice Well

BOOKING IS EASY!

1) CALL TO REGISTER OR USE THE ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM

Call us at 1-800-419-3443. Our friendly customer service team is ready to assist you Mon—Fri, 9:00AM—5:00PM (EST). Or, you can complete the [online registration form](#) anytime.

2) WE WILL CONFIRM YOUR REGISTRATION BY EMAIL

Within 24 hours you will receive an email confirmation of your registration along with some additional information and an invoice for the deposit due.

3) RETURN THE PAPERWORK AND PAY YOUR DEPOSIT

Simply review the registration documents and pay your deposit within 14 days to finalize your booking.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE](#)

SAVE WITH SOJOURN COMBINATIONS!

Save \$250 per person and receive a free transfer between locations when you book two consecutive sojourns.

THIS TOUR COMBINES WELL WITH:

GREAT CASTLES OF BRITAIN

ART & HISTORY OF BEER BREWING IN BAVARIA

“The absolute most amazing vacation I’ve ever been on...”

—Jessica H., San Francisco, CA

WEATHER & CLIMATE

In England and Wales, the average October daily high temperatures range from 55° - 59° Fahrenheit (13° - 15° centigrade). The evenings and nights are a bit cooler averaging 43° - 45° Fahrenheit (6° - 7° centigrade).

Rain is likely at this time of year. Participants are encouraged to bring a lightweight, waterproof jacket or a small umbrella. The humidity levels vary greatly depending upon location. Inland is hotter and drier, while the coastal climate is slightly cooler and more humid.



Green Bridge of Wales

Tour Map

You Stay in the Most Picturesque Locales

Town	Region	Nights
● Pen-y-Cae	Brecon Beacons NP*	2
● Usk	Monmouthshire	1
● Tintagel	Cornwall	2
● Wells	Somerset	2

*Brecon Beacons National Park, South Wales

Area of Detail



Legend

- Journeys by coach
- Overnight stops
- Sites visited

"We seemed to get special treatment everywhere we went. This made a good tour a fabulous tour."

- Richard H., Myrtle Beach, SC

Lodging



Craig y Nos Castle Hotel — Pen-y-Cae, Wales

With a stunning location and the carefully preserved ambience of a Welsh castle, Craig y Nos Castle is adorned with unique architectural details and provides magnificent views over the Brecon Beacons National Park. Set amidst great natural beauty with running streams, lakes and woods nearby, the hotel tempts guests who have been on the go during the day to relax by a log fire each evening.



Camelot Castle Hotel — Tintagel, Cornwall

Sitting proudly overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and the ruins of Tintagel Castle, the legendary birthplace of King Arthur, the stunning Camelot Castle Hotel offers rooms with magnificent panoramic views over the rugged Cornish coastline. With its unsurpassed scenery, natural beauty, peace and tranquility, it is arguably one of the most inspiring hotels in Britain.



The Swan Hotel — Wells, Somerset

Located in the center of England's smallest city and overlooking what many call England's most beautiful cathedral, the Swan is steeped in history and offers guests the opportunity to experience the elegance of a bygone era. Parts of the hotel date to at least 1422 and over the centuries the hotel has played host to many famous people, including hosting a feast in honor of Anne of Denmark.

For a complete list of lodging on this tour, please visit www.scholarlysojourns.com.



YOUR TOUR LEADER

Dr. Dorsey Armstrong is Professor of English and Medieval Literature at Purdue University where she specializes in Middle English Language and Literature, Arthurian Literature, and Anglo-Saxon Language and Literature. She has published extensively on Arthurian literature, including the critically-acclaimed 2009 book *Sir Thomas Malory's Morte Darthur: A New Modern English Translation Based on the Winchester Manuscript* and her groundbreaking work *Gender and the Chivalric Community in Sir Thomas Malory's Morte d'Arthur*, published in 2003. Her articles have appeared in numerous scholarly publications, including *Bibliographical Bulletin of the International Arthurian Society* and *Exemplaria*. Professor Armstrong is editor-in-chief of the academic journal *Arthuriana*, which publishes the most cutting-edge research on the legend of King Arthur. Her most recent book (co-authored with Kenneth Hodges) is *Mapping Malory: Regional Identities and National Geographies in Le Morte Darthur*, an exploration of the role played by geography in Malory's version of the story of King Arthur.



The Cheesewring in Bodmin Moor

Tour Details & Registration Information

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2017 DEPARTURE

October 8-15, 2017 (Sojourn #1141741)

PRICE

\$2,895/person (double occupancy)

\$3,290/person (single occupancy)

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE](#)

TOUR BEGINS

Swansea, Wales

TOUR CONCLUDES

Glastonbury, England

OPTIONAL AIR PACKAGE

From \$1,098/Person*

*Air package includes round-trip, economy airfare, airport transfers in the UK, and 100% travel assurance. Price subject to change until booked.

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT INFORMATION

TO REGISTER

Call us: 1-800-419-3443—We are ready to assist you Monday to Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (EST).

Visit us at: www.scholarlysojourns.com—Here you will find an online registration form as well as a printable version.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Due within 14 days of registration: \$500/person deposit

Due 90 days prior to departure: Balance

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Scholarly Sojourns highly recommends that all tour participants purchase travel insurance to protect their trip. We will send further information once you have been confirmed on a sojourn.

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PRICE INCLUDES

Eight-day travel program of sightseeing, tours, presentations, and discussions led by Dorsey Armstrong, 7 nights hotel accommodation in four and five-star, boutique hotels, meals as indicated on the day to day summary, opening and closing receptions, all entrance fees, visits, excursions, and sightseeing as noted in this detailed itinerary, private guides, ground transportation, the services of a dedicated Scholarly Sojourns Tour Director for the duration of the tour, all gratuities (except for hotel porters), and all other sojourn activities as described in the day to day summary.

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

Airfare; airport transfers; meals not indicated in this detailed itinerary; beverage options other than water, wine, beer, or soft-drinks with group meals; local transportation by bus, taxi, metro or light rail; passport or visa fees and necessary photos; immunizations; travel insurance; excess baggage charges; airport taxes; travel insurance, medical, hospitalization, or evacuation costs; gratuities for hotel porters; laundry; other personal items, including incidental hotel charges; any other item not specifically indicated.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE INFORMATION

MEETING LOCATION AND TIME

The meeting point for this tour is the rail station in Swansea, Wales. A shuttle service will be provided from this point to the Craig-y-Nos Castle Hotel in Pen-y-Cae. Those making their own travel arrangements should plan to arrive at this location by noon on Sunday, October 8, 2017. Participants can also arrive directly at the hotel between 12:00 and 2:00 PM that day. You will be greeted by your Scholarly Sojourns Tour Director who will assist you with check in. The tour program begins promptly at 3:00 PM on Sunday, October 8, 2017.

CONCLUSION AND DEPARTURE

Your sojourn concludes at approximately 11:00 AM on Sunday, October 15th in Glastonbury, England. An optional shuttle will be offered for those wishing to travel to Heathrow Airport and London. If making your own flight/travel arrangements, please allow for enough time to travel to the airport after the program ends.

EARLY ARRIVAL OR LATE DEPARTURE

Scholarly Sojourns is happy to assist you with booking additional nights prior to the start of your tour or following its conclusion. Often we are able to secure better rates than are available to the general public.

Trevethy Quoit—Neolithic burial chamber



SCHOLARLY SOJOURNS | www.scholarlysojourns.com

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