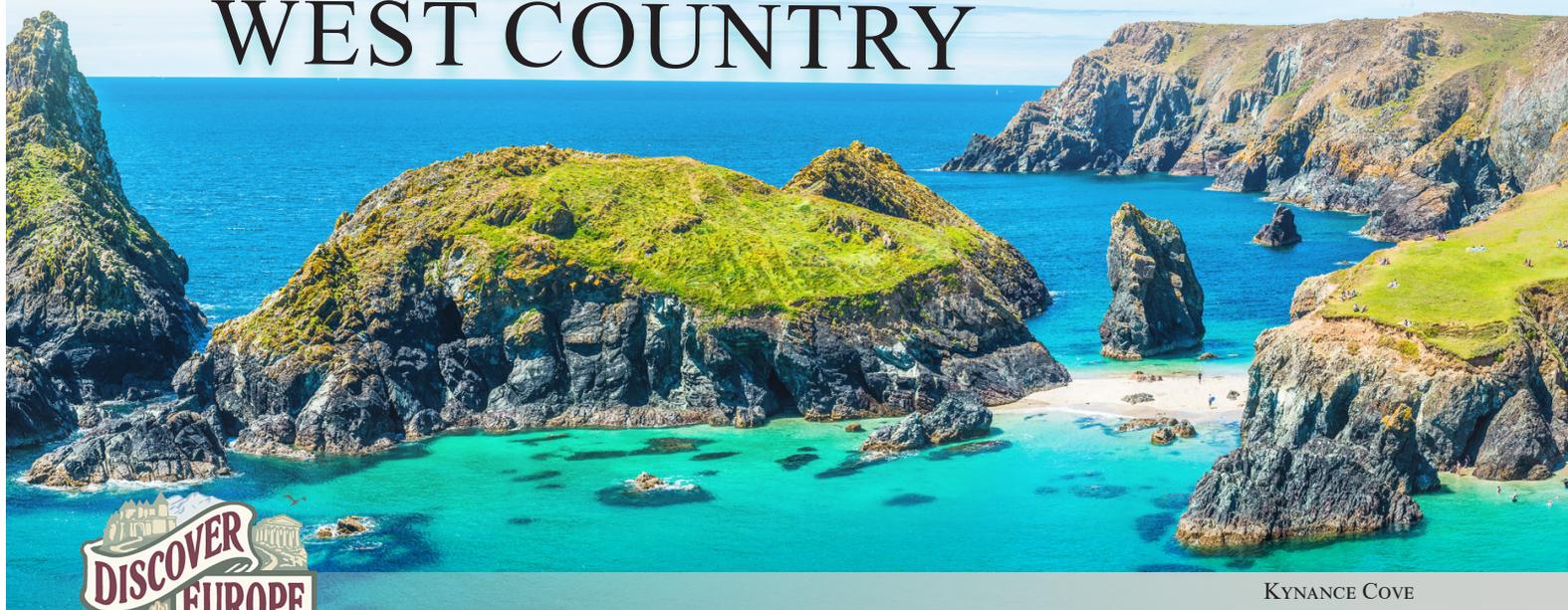


Adventures in the WEST COUNTRY



KYNANCE COVE



SEPTEMBER 13TH - 23RD, 2024

The southwest peninsula of England, made up of the counties of Cornwall, Devon, and Somerset, is known as “The West Country.” It is an ancient land, rife with myth and legend, and staunchly independent from the “mainland” of England. This journey through the mists of the Celtic past brings to life many of those ancient legends.

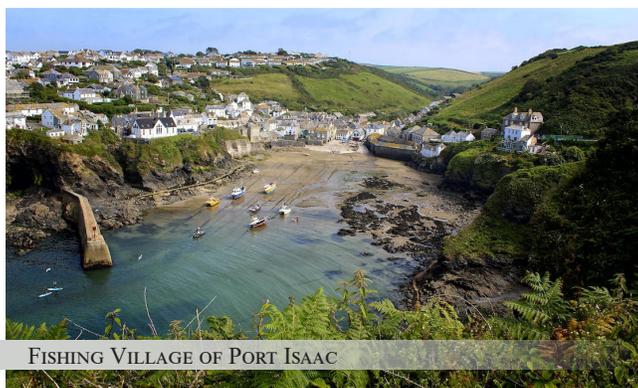
Part of the region’s uniqueness comes from its climate, one that attracts English holiday makers during the summer season. Washed by the warming currents of the Gulf Stream, the peninsula enjoys its own microclimate that allows palm trees to grow along the coast at a latitude equivalent to that of Nova Scotia on the North American continent!

We’ll visit gardens, castles, cathedrals, and ancient unspoiled towns and villages, and see areas of unparalleled natural beauty—including the coastal village of Port Isaac, better known as Port Wenn from the TV series, Doc Martin. And through it all will run the theme of the Arthurian legends. From the Vale of Avalon and Arthur’s (alleged) grave site in the ruins of Glastonbury Abbey, through the lost land of Lyonesse, and on to his birthplace at Tintagel, this ancient tale will keep cropping up on our travels through this beautiful part of England.

Why not join Discover Europe and explore The West Country this Fall?

**Back to back with:*

Wales & the Welsh Borders, September 4 - 13, 2024



FISHING VILLAGE OF PORT ISAAC

THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

LAND ONLY:	\$ 5490
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	\$ 1190

Airfares are available from many U.S. cities. Please call for details.

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

HOTELS:	9 nights’ accommodation in first class hotels including all hotel taxes, service charges.
BAGGAGE:	Porterage of one large suitcase per person.
COACHING:	All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
MEALS:	Breakfast daily, 1 tea, 6 dinners
GUIDES:	Discover Europe tour guide throughout
ENTRANCES:	Entrance fees to all sites as detailed in the itinerary

Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour. Insurance information will be mailed to each registration on receipt of deposit.

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH - Departure from your chosen US gateway city for your overnight flight to London Heathrow. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH - Upon arrival at London's Heathrow airport, you will be met and transported to our hotel in nearby Windsor. After time to unpack and relax, the rest of the day is free to unwind and explore your surroundings. This evening we gather for a welcome dinner. **(D) OVERNIGHT: WINDSOR**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH - Leaving Windsor, our first stop is at Highclere Castle, the setting for *Downton Abbey* (subject to availability). We'll visit the castle and gardens and continue to Stourhead Garden—flagship garden of the National Trust. Continuing southwest, we'll arrive at our hotel in the county of Devon, just on the edge of Dartmoor National Park. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: DARTMOOR**

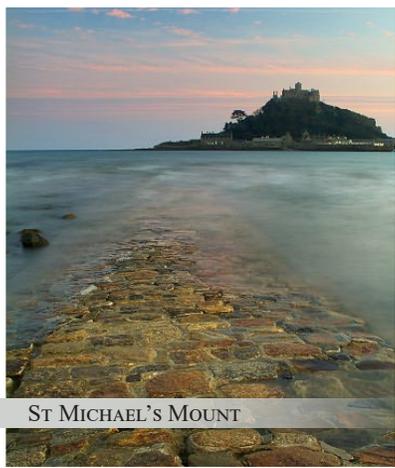
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH - Our visit this morning is to Castle Drogo, set high above the Teign gorge. The collaboration between, the margarine magnate Julius Drewe and the architect Sir Edwin Lutyens resulted in this extraordinary castle home which fuses the grandest of medieval gothic with all the ease of modern (Victorian) living. After we return to our hotel, the rest of the afternoon and evening are free. The adventurous can explore the heather strewn vastness of Dartmoor, known for the granite 'Tors' sitting atop the rugged hilltops. This evening, perhaps you'll choose to stroll to a local pub for dinner. **(B) OVERNIGHT: DARTMOOR**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH - Heading up to the north Devon coast, we will stop at the charming Cherubeer hamlet, set in quintessential rolling Devon farmland, where the owners open their gardens to private viewing under the National Garden Scheme. There will be time to wander the gardens and talk to the owners. Next stop is the charming fishing village of Clovelly. Battered and bruised by the sea, its fourteenth-century jetty still provides shelter for the fishing boats which ply the turbulent Atlantic waters for crab and mackerel. After time for a fisherman's lunch, we will head out towards Hartland Point and take a walk along the cliff tops with views of saw-toothed rocks, and spectacular waterfalls tumbling over the cliffs. We reward ourselves at Wick Farm where we can sample the delights of a "cream tea"—scones laden with clotted cream and strawberry jam. Tonight you have a free evening. **(B, T) OVERNIGHT: DARTMOOR**



CLOVELLY

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH - Today we head towards Cornwall to the picturesque fishing village, Port Isaac (also known as Portwenn from the TV series *Doc Martin*). On our way there, we will visit Tintagel Castle, birthplace of King Arthur. Set proud on a rocky headland, detached from the mainland, Tintagel instantly inspires images of knights, magicians and phantoms shrouded in mist. Lunch in a smuggler's inn will prepare us for our afternoon journey south to the 'toe' of Britain and the heartland of toothless pirates and heartless wreckers! Dinner tonight will be at our hotel. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: PENZANCE**



ST MICHAEL'S MOUNT

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH - This morning we visit St Michael's Mount, a rocky island, set a few hundred yards off the coast in Marazion Bay. The first chapel here was built in the fifth century, later expanded to accommodate an abbey, and eventually transformed into a home for the local St. Aubyn family. This afternoon, we will cross the Cornish peninsula to St. Ives, once a center of the pilchard fishing industry—they say the stench was so powerful it could stop the church clock! During the second half of the 20th century, St. Ives became a recognized artists' colony. We will walk the promenade and visit the home of Barbara Hepworth, England's most celebrated female sculptor. After some time for personal exploration, we return to Penzance for a free evening. **(B) OVERNIGHT: PENZANCE**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH - Today is a free day. Time to enjoy the nearby tiny village of Mousehole or take an optional trip by helicopter to the Isles of Scilly (supplement). The Scilly Isles are one of the sunniest spots of the British Isles. Known for their temperate climate, they are an ideal region for growing plants and flowers, indeed there is an abundance of wild flowers along every hedgerow and down every pathway. Landing on St Mary's, you will have time to stroll out to Porthcressa bay, visit the museum in Hugh Town and have lunch. Dinner is included this evening. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: PENZANCE**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST - This morning, we begin our journey home. Our first stop will be the Mayflower Steps in Plymouth. Next, we will pay a visit to Montacute House. With its walls of glowing, honey colored stone and elaborate gardens, Montacute is a masterpiece of Elizabethan Renaissance architecture. We will continue to wend our way through the lovely Somerset and Wiltshire countryside, to our hotel, where dinner awaits. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: SALISBURY**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND - We'll pay a morning visit to beautiful Salisbury cathedral, generally considered to be one of England's finest, with the tallest spire (404 feet) of any cathedral in the country. Our afternoon drive takes us to the majestic and mysterious World Heritage site of Stonehenge on Salisbury Plain, where we'll spend some time before driving the short distance to our last stop, Chawton, home to Jane Austen between 1809 and 1817. Here, she wrote or revised all her six books, including *Sense and Sensibility* and *Pride and Prejudice*. Returning to Windsor, we will enjoy our farewell dinner at our hotel. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: WINDSOR**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD - Morning transfers to Heathrow Airport for return flights to the US. **(B) OVERNIGHT: HOME**