

An Introduction to Classic English Desserts

By

IN QUEST OF THE CLASSICS

Day 1: LONDON / MICKLETON (COTSWOLDS). Guests arrive into London airport, are met and privately transferred to the delightful (and NON-TOURISTY!) Cotswold village of Mickleton, and the **Three Ways House**, a former inn transformed into a first class privately owned hotel. 3 nights are included here. After time to relax and settle in, Jill and Simon Coombe, founders of the famed "Pudding Club" of Great Britain, will welcome guests. After a brief introduction, guests will be presented with an honorary 1-year membership to the Club, then enjoy a delicious dinner, ending with one of the famed puddings. Will it be "Lord Randall's", "Syrup Sponge", "Oriental Ginger", "Spotted Dick", "Sticky Toffee & Date", or "Summer"...? You'll just have to be there to find out!



Day 2: LOCAL SIGHTSEEING. A relaxing day meandering through the Cotswolds, a patchwork quilt of ancient, honey-stone villages dotted among rolling green hills. Stops at Chipping Campden and Stow-on-the-Wold will be included. Lots of time to browse antique shops, drop by a local pub or two, or just meet a friendly "local"... (God help you if you meet an "unfriendly" one!) We'll return to our hotel at about 4.00 PM to meet the chef, who will give a short talk on each of his famous puddings. Dinner and another pudding follow.



Day 3: COOKING CLASS / LOCAL TOURING. After breakfast those who have signed up will enjoy a morning cooking class, showing most of the secrets (yes, "most!") of the cooking of the most famous examples of the English Dessert World. Those who do not wish to delve into the mysteries of "Spotted Dick" etc will head off on more local sightseeing. All guests enjoy an afternoon in nearby Stratford-upon-Avon, where there will be a visit to the half-timbered house where Shakespeare was born in 1564. In Shuttery is Anne Hathaway's cottage, an attractive thatched roof farmhouse where Shakespeare's wife lived. Return to the hotel in ample time to relax before another great dinner and - yes! - another great pud! Is there no end to this irresistible indulgence??!!

Day 4: LAKE DISTRICT. Unfortunately there is, as after breakfast we're heading north into the picturesque Lake District National Park. En route guests stop to explore the English pottery industry. It is centered in six towns along the River Trent, the largest one being Stoke-on-Trent. The most famous potteries are Royal Doulton, Wedgwood, Portmeirion and Royal Grafton. Some of the others are Ansley, Coalport, John Beswick, Spode, and Mason's Ironstone etc. While obviously not all will be visited, fairly lethal damage can be experienced today at a select number of their "seconds" outlets!



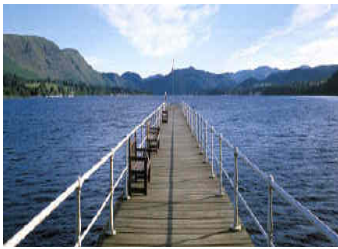
On into the Lake District, where three nights are included at **The Red Lion**, a charming former 17th century coaching inn transformed into a very pleasant first class hotel and located in the centre of perhaps the loveliest village in the Lakes - Grasmere.

No dinners are included during these three days as there are many great restaurants and pubs within an easy walk of the inn.

Day 5: LOCAL TOURING. A morning stroll through Grasmere, where William Wordsworth lived and is buried. On the outskirts of the village is Dove Cottage, where Wordsworth and his sister Dorothy lived from 1799 to 1808. From Grasmere head to Coniston, enjoying the beautiful mountain and water scenery along the way, then to Hawkeshead, where Wordsworth attended the local grammar school. In nearby Sawrey visit Hill Top Farm, home of Beatrix Potter, creator of the "Peter Rabbit" childrens' books. Return to Grasmere mid-afternoon to meet with Gerald Wilson or his daughter, owners of the world-famous Sarah Nelson's Gingerbread Shop. Gingerbread is perhaps the Lake District's most famed product (other than rain!), and you'll have a visit to the kitchens and a short talk on how this delicious dessert is made. And, of course, some tasting of it and the amazing Lemon Cheese, that is also produced here. Tragically the only thing missing will be the disclosure of what the "secret ingredient" is in the gingerbread, but hopefully all those culinary experts can work it out!!



Day 6: MORE LOCAL TOURING. In the northern part of the Lake District Park is Keswick, Crummock, the Buttermere Valley, one of the most unspoiled parts of the Lake District, beautiful Lake Derwentwater, Lodore Falls and, in the northeast area, Sharrow Bay and Pooley Bridge, with splendid views of Ullswater. We'll meander through this area, stopping here and there for photos and short strolls. We'll enjoy a buffet luncheon in the Bank House overlooking Lake Ullswater, where the chef will explain the famed "Sticky Toffee Pudding" and give a demonstration. Then you'll taste it! Again, we'll return to Grasmere mid-afternoon - this time for time to relax and enjoy the many pursuits of the village.



Day 7: YORK. After breakfast a scenic drive east across the Yorkshire Dales, a wild and rugged region made famous by the TV series "All Creatures Great & Small." An afternoon sightseeing of York highlights the Minster (Cathedral) and "The Shambles", a picturesque medieval street with overhanging timber-framed houses. Medieval walls surround York and a three-mile walk on the walls will take the visitor right around the town. It'll also help after some of the desserts we'll be enjoying here!! Three nights are included at **The Parsonage**, a truly charming country house hotel (formerly - yes, you've guessed! - the parsonage) in the village of Escrick, just outside York. Dinner is included this evening, and the chef has promised a "very unusual dessert"...



Day 8 / 9: LOCAL TOURING. Two full days to relax and enjoy York, and the surrounding area. Other points of interest in York are the National Railway Museum, which houses over 50 locomotives, and the Jorvik Viking Centre, archaeological remains and a reconstruction of the original Viking town. And don't forget the walls! We'll also be including a visit to nearby Castle Howard, one of Britain's "Magnificent 7" stately homes, this one designed by Vanbrugh and location for the television series "Brideshead Revisited". On Day 8 we'll include a visit to perhaps England's most famous Cake Shop - Betty's. Here we'll be met by Elizabeth Fox, who will give a short talk on the origins of Betty's, their worldwide fame, and their specialties, including the infamous "Yorkshire Fat Rascal" (a secret recipe here though!), the incredible "Yorkshire Tea Fruit Cake", and Betty's "Yorkshire Curd Tart" - to die for! And we hope you don't, as after the talk you'll try it!! On Day 9 we'll explore the Peak District, and include a visit to Bakewell, the "home" of the scrumptuous "Bakewell Tart"...

A local expert will explain its secrets (or at least some of them!) before guests can enjoy the tart... Each evening dinner is included at The Parsonage.

Day 10: LONDON. Well, all good things have to come to an end. OR DO THEY?!! We'll head south into London, where we'll enjoy panoramic city sightseeing before "Afternoon Tea" at The Ritz. Now THAT might be enjoyable too! Overnight at **The Rembrandt**, a first class traditional hotel ideally located in Knightsbridge, close to Harrod's.



Day 11: DEPART. After breakfast guests are transferred to London airport for their return flight to USA. OR... Stay on in London for a few more days? (And a few more desserts??!!) We can arrange accommodations, theatre, etc.

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