

## Still Stitching England with Susan 2017

### Day 1 Thursday 31 August 2017 Welcome Dinner

Make your way to Oxford, the “City of Dreaming Spires” for the start of your journey.



*Group or individual transfers from Gatwick or Heathrow to your Oxford Hotel have not been included to allow you maximum flexibility, but they can easily be arranged. If you want to add extra nights in Oxford or London either side of your tour this can be arranged.*

Early evening Welcome Dinner in local restaurant.

*Dinner included*

*One night Oxford City Hotel*

### Day 2 Friday 01 September 2017 Ruddington – Hardwick Hall – York

After a cooked breakfast we drive north, for several hours, to the small town of Ruddington home of the Framework Knitters Museum. As we explore this intimate collection of knitter’s cottages and workshops we can almost imagine the silence filled with the clatter of hundreds of machines churning out stockings. *Light buffet lunch in local pub.*



Continue north to Hardwick Hall, a magnificent Elizabethan mansion built by the formidable Bess of Hardwick.

The Hall is stuffed with tapestries and embroideries but the jewel in the crown is a set of 4 applique hangings featuring



Penelope, Lucretia, Artemisia and Zenobia , all powerful women from the ancient world; made with church vestments confiscated during the reformation in the mid 1500's.



Continue on to Leeds where we base ourselves for the next couple of days. Our hotel sits on the banks of the Liverpool - Leeds Canal.

*Yarn bombing on the Liverpool - Leeds Canal*

*Breakfast & Lunch included*

*2 nights Leeds Hotel*

### Day 3 Saturday 02 September 2017 Ackworth School -York



Morning, short drive to Ackworth School, founded in 1779 by Quakers, to see their Sampler Collection.

*"What is special about Ackworth School is that we have a richness of context in terms of school documents and other items made by the girls so that the samplers can be better understood as a group and through them the life of the girls,"*

After an excellent lunch. we drive to York.



York is a delight. The city is dominated by a magnificent Norman Church, skirted by narrow winding city streets and enclosed by medieval city walls.

Optional walking tour of the city with a local guide, plenty of time to shop.

*Breakfast & Lunch included*

*Overnight Leeds Hotel*

Day 4 Sunday 03 September 2017 Leeds - Gawthorpe – Stoke-on-Trent

Morning visit to the Textile exhibition at Gawthorpe Hall. It is based on a collection made by the Hon Rachael Key-shuttleworth. Until her death in 1967 her family had lived in this area since 1388.



Afternoon visit Staffordshire Potteries Museum. Many of the designs we see on Samplers, embroideries, fabrics and pottery were inspired by nature and the everyday. But it is a mistake to think that England has always been this “green and pleasant land”, in the industrial revolution grass was black with soot and Gawthorpe Hall was surrounded by open-cast mines.



*Breakfast & Lunch included*

*Overnight Stoke-on-Trent*

Day 5 Monday 04 September 2017 Stoke-on-Trent - Cotswolds

Early start today, drive south into the Cotswolds to visit the Feller Collection. Visit Stow-the-Wold a picturesque market town on the way. Afternoon visit Witney Antiques, a shop which sells museum quality samplers and embroideries. Witney was once at the centre of the blanket trade, the Hudson Bay Company shipped many of their distinctive blankets to North America from here.

*Breakfast & Lunch included*

*Overnight Oxford*

Day 6 Tuesday 05 September 2017 Bath - Bristol

Morning drive to Bath, a beautiful Georgian City whose crescents and arcades were once graced by Jane Austen heroines. Guided tour of the Fashion Museum, housed in the former Assembly rooms, with one of their wonderful guides. They have a beautiful collection of embroidered gloves a few of which are always on display.

Afternoon at leisure in Bath. This is the perfect place to do some last minute shopping.

*Overnight Bath*

*Breakfast included*



Day 7 Wednesday 06 September 2017 Muller Museum – Sudley Castle - Oxford

Morning visit Muller House Museum for a private viewing of their sampler collection.

Visit Sudeley Castle, with its beautiful gardens, for lunch. The house has a lovely collection of 17th C and 18th C embroidery, samplers and lace.



*Stump work casket 1660*

*Overnight Oxford*

*Breakfast & Lunch included*

Day 8 Thursday 07 September 2017 Kelmscott

Morning visit the beautiful home of William Morris and his wife Jane Burden. He was a moving light in the Arts & Crafts Movement. Jane was his Muse and an accomplished embroiderer.

Farewell dinner with the optional punting on the River Thames.



*Jane Burden wife of William Morris*

*Overnight Oxford*

*Breakfast & Lunch included*

Day 9 Friday 08 September 2017

Transfers to the airport for your flight home can be arranged but are not included in the price.

#### Optional Extras

Transfers to and from airport at beginning and end of your journey.

City sightseeing in York with local expert - £15

Open top bus tour of York - £15

Meal in Country Inn between York and Leeds - £37

Punting in Oxford, optional motorised boat excursion available - £20

#### Extension

Extra nights in Oxford at the beginning or end of your tour are available at approximately £100 per person per night in a twin bedded room.

Why not add on an extra 3 nights in London at the beginning or end of your tour.

Allow approximately £100 per person per night in a twin bedded room in a 4 star hotel with full English breakfast. Transfers between Oxford and London and to and from the airport at beginning or end of your tour can very easily be arranged. The price will depend on how many people are travelling.

Please let me know your transfer and extra hotel requirements at the time of booking and I will give you a quote.

Included in price

8 nights' in 4/5 star hotels in twin bedded rooms, single supplement applies

8 breakfasts - Full English breakfast

6 Lunches - usually a cold light buffet meal served with tea and coffee

2 Dinners - Usually 2 courses, a main meal and a dessert with one alcoholic or soft drink.

Porterage 1 bag per person

All transfers, by luxury coach, as detailed in itinerary

All entrance fees and guides fees unless specified as optional

Services of Driver and Tour Director