

Recommended Reading for the Literary Tour of England

Below you'll find the books that Amanda has recommended to read for the Literary Tour of England - October 6-16, 2016. All reading is completely optional & is simply offered to help you get the most out of your trip.

Don't forget to purchase your books from an independent bookstore near you! All books can be purchased at **Bethany Beach Books with a 20% trip discount**. Feel free to purchase your books at Bethany Beach Books in person, over the phone, or on their website! Guests will receive the special coupon code for



Fiction

- ◇ ***The Song of Hartgrove Hall***
by Natasha Solomons
- ◇ ***The Uncommon Reader***
by Alan Bennett
- ◇ **The *Harry Potter* series**
(At least the first:
Harry Potter & the Sorcerer's Stone)
- ◇ At least one **Jane Austen** novel
Preferably *Pride & Prejudice*, *Sense & Sensibility*, or *Persuasion*
- ◇ ***The Other Boleyn Girl***
by Philippa Gregory
- ◇ ***Fingersmith***
by Sarah Waters
- ◇ At least one **Sherlock Holmes** novel
by Arthur Conan Doyle
- ◇ Any works of Shakespeare

Non-Fiction

- ◇ **Guide Book:**
Fodor's 25 Best: London 2016
- ◇ ***Notes From a Small Island***
by Bill Bryson
- ◇ ***To Marry an English Lord: Tales of Wealth and Marriage, Sex and Snobbery***
by Gail MacColl
- ◇ ***The Real Jane Austen: A Life in Small Things***
by Paula Byrne
- ◇ ***What Jane Austen Ate & Charles Dickens Knew: From Fox Hunting to Whist - the Facts of Daily Life in 19th-Century England***
by Daniel Pool
- ◇ ***Cider, Hard & Sweet: History, Traditions, & Making Your Own***
by Ben Watson

Recommended Movies/TV Shows for the Literary Tour of England

Here is a short list of movies and TV shows you may want to watch before we head to England as we will be visiting some of their film locations!

Don't forget to check your local library. If they don't have the movie or TV show you're looking for, they can oftentimes get them!



Movies

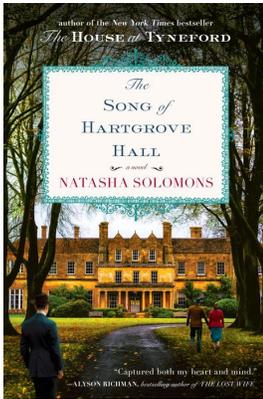
- ◇ **The Harry Potter movies**
We'll be visiting multiple places where the movies were filmed!
 - Lacock Abbey
 - Gloucester Cathedral
 - Blenheim Palace
 - Christ Church College
- ◇ **The Da Vinci Code (2006)**
Filmed at Winchester Cathedral
- ◇ **The Other Boleyn Girl (2008)**
Filmed at Lacock Abbey
- ◇ **Spectre - James Bond Movie (2015)**
Scenes filmed at Blenheim Palace
- ◇ **Hamlet (1996)**
Directed by Kenneth Branagh
Scenes filmed at Blenheim Palace
- ◇ **Cinderella (2015)**
Scenes filmed at Blenheim Palace
- ◇ **The Golden Compass (2007)**
Scenes filmed at Christ Church College

TV Shows/Series

- ◇ **Wolf Hall - PBS Masterpiece Classic** (currently viewable on pbs.org)
Filmed at Lacock Abbey
Filmed at Gloucester Cathedral
- ◇ **BBC's Pride & Prejudice (1995)**
Filmed at Lacock Abbey
- ◇ **BBC's Doctor Who (2008 Christmas Special Episode)**
Filmed at Gloucester Cathedral
- ◇ **BBC's Sherlock (2014)**
Episode filmed at Gloucester Cathedral

The Song of Hartgrove Hall

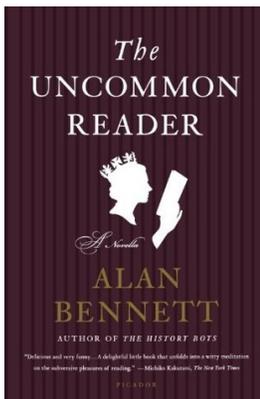
By Natasha Solomons



A composer looks back on a life nurtured and challenged by a crumbling English country house. The plot of Solomons' fourth novel caroms between the 1940s and '50s and the early 2000s. In the present, septuagenarian Harry Fox-Talbot, known as Fox, a celebrated conductor and composer, is mourning the death of his wife, Edie Rose, a famous singer. Back in 1946, as Fox returns from boarding school and his two older brothers, Jack and George, from World War II, their father, the General, is contemplating demolition of their English country house, Hartgrove Hall, which is severely dilapidated after several decades of neglect and recent use as a billet for troops. The three sons resolve to save Hartgrove by farming the land, and the General gives them one year to succeed. The plan is complicated by Fox's decidedly nonrustic musical ambitions and the fact that Jack, the oldest son and sole heir to Hartgrove, has secretly married Edie, a Jewish songstress known for her stirring wartime ballads, much to the General's alarm. And Fox's, because not only do he and Edie have musical aptitude in common, he is obsessed with her...

The Uncommon Reader

By Alan Bennett

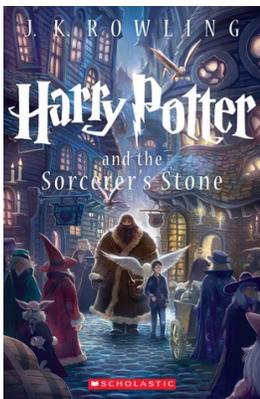


From one of England's most celebrated writers, the author of the award-winning *The History Boys*, a funny and superbly observed novella about the Queen of England and the subversive power of reading.

When her corgis stray into a mobile library parked near Buckingham Palace, the Queen feels duty-bound to borrow a book. Discovering the joy of reading widely (from J. R. Ackerley, Jean Genet, and Ivy Compton-Burnett to the classics) and intelligently, she finds that her view of the world changes dramatically. Abetted in her newfound obsession by Norman, a young man from the royal kitchens, the Queen comes to question the prescribed order of the world and loses patience with the routines of her role as monarch. Her new passion for reading initially alarms the palace staff and soon leads to surprising and very funny consequences for the country at large.

Harry Potter Series

By J.K. Rowling



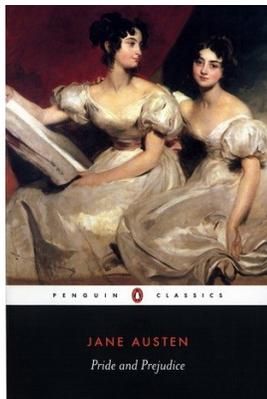
Please read at least the first Harry Potter (it's magical, I promise). Or at least watch the movie.

Harry Potter & the Sorcerer's Stone

Readers are in for a delightful romp with this award-winning debut from a British author who dances in the footsteps of P.L. Travers and Roald Dahl. As the story opens, mysterious goings-on ruffle the self-satisfied suburban world of the Dursleys, culminating in a trio of strangers depositing the Dursleys' infant nephew Harry in a basket on their doorstep. After 11 years of disregard and neglect at the hands of his aunt, uncle and their swinish son Dudley, Harry suddenly receives a visit from a giant named Hagrid, who informs Harry that his mother and father were a witch and a wizard, and that he is to attend Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry himself. Most surprising of all, Harry is a legend in the witch world for having survived an attack by the evil sorcerer Voldemort, who killed his parents and left Harry with a lightning-shaped scar on his forehead. And so the fun begins, with Harry going off to boarding school like a typical English kid--only his supplies include a message-carrying owl and a magic wand.

Pride & Prejudice

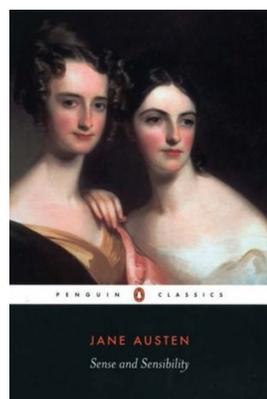
By Jane Austen



When Elizabeth Bennet first meets eligible bachelor Fitzwilliam Darcy, she thinks him arrogant and conceited, while he struggles to remain indifferent to her good looks and lively mind. When she later discovers that Darcy has involved himself in the troubled relationship between his friend Bingley and her beloved sister Jane, she is determined to dislike him more than ever. In the sparkling comedy of manners that follows, Jane Austen shows the folly of judging by first impressions and superbly evokes the friendships, gossip and snobberies of provincial middle-class life.

Sense & Sensibility

By Jane Austen

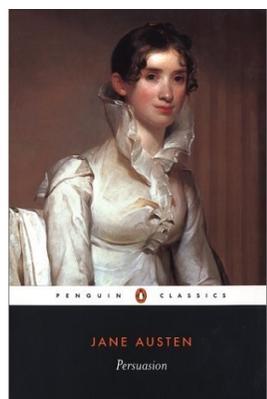


Marianne Dashwood wears her heart on her sleeve, and when she falls in love with the dashing but unsuitable John Willoughby she ignores her sister Elinor's warning that her impulsive behaviour leaves her open to gossip and innuendo. Meanwhile Elinor, always sensitive to social convention, is struggling to conceal her own romantic disappointment, even from those closest to her. Through their parallel experience of love—and its threatened loss—the sisters learn that sense must mix with sensibility if they are to find personal happiness in a society where status and money govern the rules of love.

This edition includes explanatory notes, textual variants between the first and second editions, and Tony Tanner's introduction to the original Penguin Classic

Persuasion

By Jane Austen

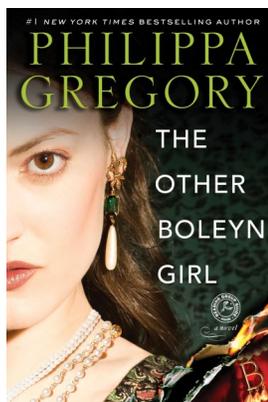


Twenty-seven-year old Anne Elliot is Austen's most adult heroine. Eight years before the story proper begins, she is happily betrothed to a naval officer, Frederick Wentworth, but she precipitously breaks off the engagement when persuaded by her friend Lady Russell that such a match is unworthy. The breakup produces in Anne a deep and long-lasting regret. When later Wentworth returns from sea a rich and successful captain, he finds Anne's family on the brink of financial ruin and his own sister a tenant in Kellynch Hall, the Elliot estate. All the tension of the novel revolves around one question: Will Anne and Wentworth be reunited in their love?

Jane Austen once compared her writing to painting on a little bit of ivory, 2 inches square. Readers of Persuasion will discover that neither her skill for delicate, ironic observations on social custom, love, and marriage nor her ability to apply a sharp focus lens to English manners and morals has deserted her in her final

The Other Boleyn Girl

By Philippa Gregory



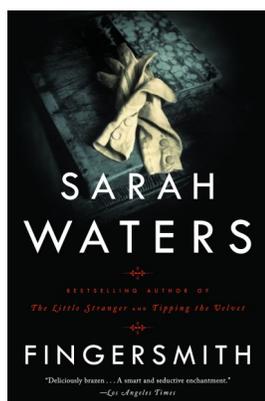
Two sisters competing for the greatest prize: The love of a king.

When Mary Boleyn comes to court as an innocent girl of fourteen, she catches the eye of Henry VIII. Dazzled, Mary falls in love with both her golden prince and her growing role as unofficial queen. However, she soon realises just how much she is a pawn in her family's ambitious plots as the king's interest begins to wane and she is forced to step aside for her best friend and rival: her sister, Anne. Then Mary knows that she must defy her family and her king and take fate into her own hands.

A rich and compelling novel of love, sex, ambition, and intrigue, *The Other Boleyn Girl* introduces a woman of extraordinary determination and desire who lived at the heart of the most exciting and glamorous court in Europe and survived by following her heart.

Fingersmith

By Sarah Waters

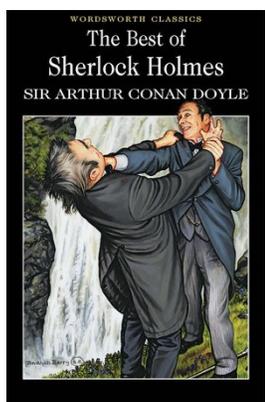


This hypnotic suspense novel is awash with all manner of gloomy Dickensian leitmotifs: pickpockets, orphans, grim prisons, lunatic asylums, "laughing villains," and, of course, "stolen fortunes and girls made out to be mad." Divided into three parts, the tale is narrated by two orphaned girls whose lives are inextricably linked. Waters's penchant for byzantine plotting can get a bit exhausting, but even at its densest moments--and remember, this is smoggy London circa 1862--it remains mesmerizing. A damning critique of Victorian moral and sexual hypocrisy, a gripping melodrama, and a love story to boot, this book ingeniously reworks some truly classic themes.

"Superb storytelling. *Fingersmith* is gripping; so suspenseful and twisting is the plot that for the last 250 pages, I read at breakneck speed."

Sherlock Holmes

By Arthur Conan Doyle



Please read a Sherlock Holmes novel. A great collection is:

The Best of Sherlock Holmes

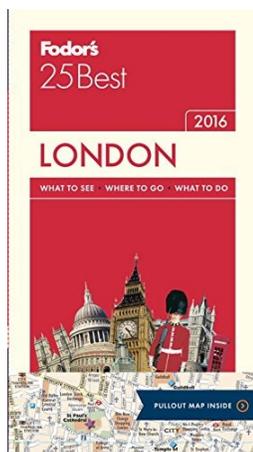
Selected, Edited and Introduced by David Stuart Davies.

The Best of Sherlock Holmes is a collection of twenty of the very best tales from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's fifty-six short stories featuring the arch sleuth. Basing his selection around the author's own twelve personal favorites, David Stuart Davies has added a further eight sparkling stories to Conan Doyle's 'Baker Street Dozen', creating a unique volume which distils the pure essence of the world's most famous detective.

Within these pages the reader will encounter the greatest collection of villains and the weirdest and most puzzling mysteries ever seen in print. And there at the center, in a London swathed in eddies of fog and illuminated by gaslight, is to be found the remarkable character of Sherlock Holmes and his staunch companion, Doctor John H. Watson. Few will be able to resist this invitation to step aboard the waiting hansom cab and rattle off along cobbled streets into unimagined dangers

Fodor's 25 Best: London

By Fodor's



Best bets for dining, lodging, sightseeing. Plus a full-color pullout map. Everything you need to experience London.

Top lodging & dining picks for every budget

The classic must-see sights plus sights you may not have discovered

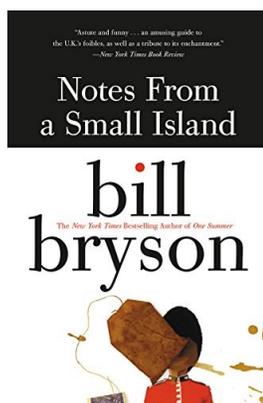
Art and history in the Victoria & Albert, the Tate Modern, the Natural History Museum, the Museum of London

The best local shopping in vibrant street markets, legendary department stores, and offbeat boutiques

****This is a great guide of London, it's packed with a ton of information but small enough to bring with you on your travels. This will be helpful when planning your free days in London!**

Notes from a Small Island

By Bill Bryson



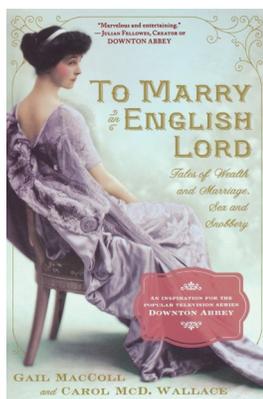
After a British sojourn lasting 20 years, this celebrated journalist decided to move back to the U.S.--but not before embarking on a prolonged jaunt around Britain, mainly by way of public transportation. Bryson's entertaining travelogue combines the intimate knowledge of one who has lived among Britons for a sustained period with the refreshing sense of wonder from a first-time visitor. When Bryson engages in chronicling typically British customs and characters, his love of the place is as obvious as his writing is delightfully irreverent.

****A hilarious read! If you want more Bill Bryson in Britain, the sequel to this, *The Road to Little Dribbling: Adventures of an American in Britain*, comes out January 19, 2016.**

To Marry an English Lord:

Tales of Wealth and Marriage, Sex & Snobbery

By Gail MacCourt

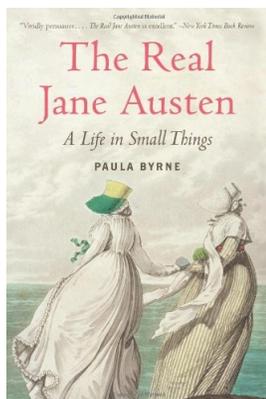


This delightful account of how American heiresses in the post-Civil War era packed up their trunks and went husband-hunting in England demonstrates that our national infatuation with British aristocracy is nothing new. The young women had good looks and big bucks; the often debt-ridden Brits had titles, castles and a society that was "more stimulating and more permissive, more leisurely and more sophisticated than Old New York." MacColl and Wallace chronicle the lives of the rich and famous on both sides of the ocean, dishing up spicy gossip, pithy social commentary and obscure historical tidbits (because they were almost never allowed to sit in Queen Victoria's presence, her ladies-in-waiting "habitually bought shoes a size too big since their feet swelled so badly"). The book also includes witty profiles of leading American ladies and their British lords, piquant period photographs and handy tips on proper etiquette, such as "Any man who reverses changes the direction in which he's spinning his partner during a waltz is a cad."

****A lot of interesting (& juicy) history about Blenheim Palace!**

The Real Jane Austen: A Life in Small Things

By Paula Bryne



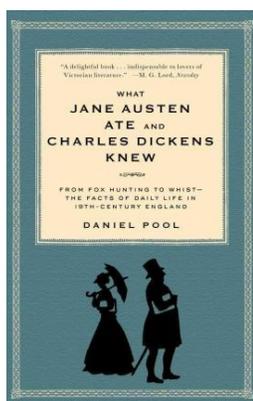
Just as letters and tokens in Jane Austen's novels often signal key turning points in the narrative, Byrne explores the small things – a scrap of paper, a gold chain, an ivory miniature – that held significance in Austen's personal and creative life.

Byrne transports us to different worlds, from the East Indies to revolutionary Paris, and to different events, from a high society scandal to a case of petty shoplifting. In this ground-breaking biography, Austen is set on a wider stage than ever before, revealing a well-traveled and politically aware writer – important aspects of her artistic development that have long been overlooked.

The Real Jane Austen is a fresh, compelling, and surprising biography of the author of some of our most enduring classic books – from *Pride and Prejudice* to *Sense and Sensibility*, *Emma* to *Persuasion* – and a vivid evocation of the world that shaped her.

What Jane Austen Ate & Charles Dickens Knew: From Fox-Hunting to Whist - The Facts of Daily Life in 19th Century England

By Sarah Waters

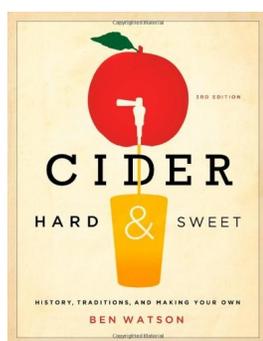


A “delightful reader's companion” to the great nineteenth-century British novels of Austen, Dickens, Trollope, the Brontës, and more, this lively guide clarifies the sometimes bizarre maze of rules and customs that governed life in Victorian England.

For anyone who has ever wondered whether a duke outranked an earl, when to yell “Tally Ho!” at a fox hunt, or how one landed in “debtor's prison,” this book serves as an indispensable historical and literary resource. Author Daniel Pool provides countless intriguing details (did you know that the “plums” in Christmas plum pudding were actually raisins?) on the Church of England, sex, Parliament, dinner parties, country house visiting, and a host of other aspects of nineteenth-century English life—both “upstairs” and “downstairs.”

Cider, Hard & Sweet

By Ben Watson



A great read for anyone who wants to know more about the art of hard cider-making before we tour the hard cider mill!

In this richly informative and entertaining book, Ben Watson explores the cultural and historical roots of cider. He introduces us to its different styles—draft, farmhouse, French, New England, and sparkling—and also covers other apple products, like apple wine, apple juice, cider vinegar, and Calvados.

Cider is the new thing in today's drinking world, even though it's been around for centuries. In spite of its long and colorful history, cider has remained relatively underappreciated by the American public. The purchase in 2012 of a Vermont-based cidemaker for over \$300 million signaled that this is all likely to change very soon. Richly informative and entertaining, *Cider, Hard and Sweet* is your go-to source for everything related to apples, cider, and cider making.