

**“Elementary, Dear Agatha-It’s Daphne:
Devon, Cornwall, and Bristol’s CrimeFest”
May 16-25, 2010**

Saturday 15 May

Depart USA for London. Participants make their own flight arrangements. Plan to arrive at London’s Heathrow airport no later than 10:00 a.m. on Sunday.

Sunday 16 May

Meet Blue Badge Guide at London Heathrow and transfer to Torquay for 3 nights at the Grand Hotel. Welcome reception followed by welcome dinner at hotel.

Monday 17 May

Visit Torquay Museum and Agatha Christie sites to include Meadfoot Beach, her birthplace, and the church where she was baptized. Enjoy a pub lunch at the Olde Churston Court Inn and visit St. Mary’s church, followed by a visit to Greenway, Agatha Christie’s home, accompanied by John Curran, long-time literary executor of Christie’s estate and author of *Agatha Christie and the Mystery of the Secret Notebooks* (2009).

Tuesday 18 May

Cross the river Tamar into Cornwall today. Visit the historic harbour of Fowey, a delightful town on the banks of the River Fowey. Home to Daphne du Maurier, the area provided inspiration for several of her novels including *Rebecca*. See where the author lived and meet Ella Westland, a specialist in romantic fiction, who will discuss du Maurier’s work over a cream tea.

Wednesday 19 May

A guest speaker will discuss Sherlock Holmes’ work over coffee. Leave Torquay this morning and travel by steam train from Paignton to Kingswear. Walk around the historic town of Dartmouth and have lunch at leisure before enjoying a boat cruise up the river Dart to Totnes. Drive across Dartmoor to discover the setting of the Sherlock Holmes stories. Arrive in Bristol late afternoon.

Thursday morning 20 May

A half day tour of nearby Georgian Bath, to include a walking tour and a visit to the Roman Baths. See the very best of this magnificent city, from the superbly preserved Roman Baths of the first century to the parks, terraces, squares, and the Royal crescent of the eighteenth century.

Thursday afternoon-Sunday afternoon, 20-23 May

Attend CrimeFest, including the Gala Dinner on Saturday evening

Sunday afternoon 23 May

Take a guided circular cruise on the Bristol ferry. See the SS Great Britain and learn about the Great Voyages of Discovery and Trade as well as view the Panorama of the City. This will be followed by a guided walking tour of the city. Buffet dinner at the Bristol Royal Marriott.

Monday 24 May

A beautiful drive over the Severn Bridge into Wales and up the Usk valley by way of Usk and Raglan and Abergavenny. Stop for coffee in Crickhowell before entering the Brecon Beacons National park. Spectacular scenery as the drive takes you through the Black Mountains to Hay on Wye. Leisure time here to enjoy the second hand bookshops and have lunch. The return journey travels back through the beautiful Golden Valley in Herefordshire with a stop for tea at the Skirrid Inn, reputed to be the oldest public house in Wales.

Tuesday 25 May

Depart for London Heathrow