

SHORT BREAKS BY COACH TO FRANCE



Paris 2for1 - 'The City of Light'

3 Days, 28 August (Bank Holiday),
24 September, 29 October &
3 December 2010

from £249 for 2 people

• British coaching • Return Channel crossings • 2 nights B&B in the Greater Paris area • Sightseeing opportunities • Optional excursions to Versailles, Paris by Night, Paris City Tour and Illuminations • Services of a Mistral Tour Manager



Monet's Water Garden

4 Days, 3 September 2010

from £225 per person

• British coaching • Return Channel crossings • 3 nights bed & breakfast in Rouen • Included excursion to Giverny & the famous Monet's Garden • Included excursions to Bayeux, famous for its Tapestry and the picturesque fishing village of Honfleur • Services of a Mistral Tour Manager



Battlefields of Somme & Flanders

4 Days, 10 November 2010

from £225 per person

• British coaching • Return Channel crossings • 3 nights B&B in Northern France • Included tour of the Somme Valley and the Thiepval Memorial • Included visits to Ypres, Passchendale and the Menin Gate • Services of a Mistral Tour Manager

For a Free brochure call **01244 280011** (quote 020)



Operated by Mistral Holidays
ABTA V0669 ATOL Protected 6900
Subject to availability and full terms & conditions apply.



www.premier.holidaytoday.co.uk

it's FRIDAY

TRAVEL

Bradford is billed as a vibrant and cosmopolitan city, 'big' on arts and culture. Helen Werin discovers that the sprawling metropolis has plenty of enthralling history too...

I'D read that Bradford was a 'city full of surprises' and, of course, I'd heard that the folk of Yorkshire were very friendly. But surely not this friendly?

Mrs Dooley was showing me her lovely white lace bloomers in full view of everyone else in the street. Apart from her companion, the uppercrust 'Mrs Hill', who looked on with shock and embarrassment, no-one else seemed to be batting an eyelid.

But then this is Saltaire, the 'model' village built on the outskirts of the city from 1851-72 by textile magnate Sir Titus Salt to house mill workers from the disease-ridden slums under unpolluted country skies. The antics of the straight-talking Mrs Dooley (aka Maria Glott), in contrast with straight-laced Mrs Hill (aka Caroline Hill), are all in the name of bringing history alive as part of the characterful Salt Walks.

Refreshingly so, too. For it's not often that you hear history from the mouths of the working-classes. And Mrs D is offering a very different view of Titus – liberally laced with cynicism – from that of refined Mrs Hill, who appears to see him as a visionary.

Mrs D was showing us an altogether more altruistic side to the master by leading us to the almshouses where headstone-like tablets beside some of the doors show the names of the occupants. On some there are as many as eight names in a year. It seems that you only came in to these almshouses if you were on your way out.

Though Titus built a hospital for his workers injured in the mill, anyone who could no longer work for him had to leave their home. He also built a magnificent park by the River Aire, currently being restored, with bandstands and boathouses. However, the workers simply did not have the time to enjoy it.

The man who appeared to offer people a better way of life with his 'idealistic' village was to never let them forget who built it either. The Italianate palace-style mill – the biggest building in the world in its time – forms a T shape and every which way you turn you can see the initials TS entwined in stone, plaster work or railings.

Strange but distinctly telling is that no child in Saltaire was ever named Titus, a fact that even Mrs Hill nods her head sagely in agreement to.

Maria's research of the former families of Saltaire is meticulous in its detail and perhaps, not surprisingly with the benefit of hindsight, shows that most millworkers did not stay for long. Back in character she says: "Salt showed us a better way to live, but there were too many rules which did not go down well with many families, who moved back to Bradford." Including Mrs Dooley herself, it seems; she ended up running a café in the city.

Saltaire is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site and all the 820 or so houses are privately owned. The magnificent Salts Mill itself is a tourist magnet, largely because of its celebrated 1853 Gallery featuring a fabulous exhibition of Bradford boy David Hockney's work. This is one of the world's largest collections of Hockney's work.

Sophie, our nine-year-old daughter, had been fascinated by the ornate, curled hookah pipes that she could see people smoking in an opulent tent. We by-passed the chance to try smoking a fruit-flavoured infusion in favour of what turned out to be the best curries we have ever eaten, served up with a large portion of the famed Yorkshire friendliness. Our meal at Markaz is certainly going to be a hard act to follow.

But the real highlight of Sophie's stay was undoubtedly the National Media Museum and the IMAX theatre. In the museum she learnt how TV programmes are made with all manner of buttons to press. We could have immersed ourselves in hours of classics such as Fawlty Towers in TV Heaven, all for free, but Sophie wanted to have



FILM BUFFS: The National Media Museum is a must for anyone interested in film and television.

Picture: Robin Weaver

If you fancy an Asian meal... try Bradford!



Bringing history to life: 'Mrs Dooley' (left) and 'Mrs Hill' on the streets of Saltaire.

Pic: Robin Weaver

a go at reading the news. We also had great fun operating the cameras on a film set and experimenting with different backdrops. Though kids are in their element here, the educational message is subtly pushed home, not least because Bradford is now the world's first UNESCO 'City of Film'.

It was slightly surreal therefore to go from the very latest in film technology to a scene which could have come straight out of a Dickens book, all within the space of a few miles.

We wandered up the Main Street of Haworth taking great care on the uneven cobbles and stone setts, designed to give horses a better grip. The tourist 'blurb' had told me that the former wool-manufacturing village had retained much of its character from when its most famous residents, the Brontës, lived here. However, I was a little unprepared for the rather full-on blast of Brontë sentiment in the name of tourism.

At the top of the hill we found the Haworth Parsonage, now the Brontë Parsonage Museum, where the world's most famous literary family lived from 1820-61. Charlotte's novel Jane Eyre, Emily's Wuthering Heights and Anne's The Tenant of Wildfell Hall were all written in this house.

The Brontë Society, which has restored the Parsonage, has sourced all manner of the Brontë's possessions, from letters and manuscripts to clothes and furniture, all of which were scattered far and wide, to give visitors a wonderful insight in to the family's life.

Outside on the cobbles, looking

past the crowds of sightseers, I was reminded of an old-fashioned Christmas card scene, with cottages with mullioned windows and street lanterns. So it is somewhat hard to fathom that Haworth is twinned with the village at Macchu Picchu in Peru!

What to see and do

- Take an atmospheric lantern-lit **Haworth Graveyard Tour** with local storyteller Philip Lister – www.bronteguide.com
- **Bradford Cathedral**, which dates from the 15th Century, has 12 William Morris stained glass windows, including one of his earliest commissions.
- Passengers on the **Keighley & Worth Valley Railway** pass through the smallest station in Britain at Damems and the beautifully-restored Oakworth Station, famous for its use in the film *The Railway Children*. Tel: 01535 645214 or 01535 647777 – www.kwvr.co.uk
- At **Bradford Industrial Museum** and **Horses at Work, Moorside Mills, Eccleshill, Bradford**. Tel: 01274 435900 – www.bradfordmuseums.org/industrialmuseum – you can view the contrast between the splendid mill owner's house and the terraces of the humble workers.
- **BD1 Gallery and Impressions Gallery**, Centenary Square, Bradford – www.bradfordmuseums.org/bradford1gallery – currently has an awesome 1960s Pop Art exhibition, featuring work by Andy Warhol which runs until February 4, 2010.
- A heritage trail is available from **Bradford Tourist Information Centre** in City Hall (tel: 01274 433678).
- **Haworth** is a great base for walkers, especially across the dramatic moors. Leaflets available from the Tourist Information Centre in Haworth, tel: 01535 642329.
- Bradford has a well-earned reputation for some of the best **Asian Restaurants** in the country. Try them!

Where to stay

- We stayed at the **Great Victoria Hotel**, opposite the station (tel 01274 728706 – www.tomahawkhotels.co.uk). Originally a grand Victorian railway hotel it has been refurbished to retain its period elegance.
- At the **The Old Registry** in Haworth (tel: 01535 646503 – www.theoldregistryhaworth.co.uk) owners Paul and Paula take huge pride in using award-winning local, Fairtrade and/or organic ingredients in their delicious breakfasts.
- We travelled courtesy of **Citybreaks.org.uk** – www.citybreaks.org.uk – which helps visitors discover the unusual, hidden and unique region across the UK.

We bet you love
Henlow Racing!

GATES OPEN
6.30PM
FIRST RACE
7.45PM.
DISCO AFTER LAST
RACE UNTIL
1AM

Special offer this
Saturday 14th Aug
3 course a la carte
+ entry + racecard
for only £15.95
per person
Call 01462 851850
ext 1

FREE ENTRY
+ race card + drink
every Thursday
in August
Please bring this
voucher with you
(up to 4 people)

140 seater air conditioned
restaurant. Outside seating with
outside bar

Racing every Thursday,
Friday & Saturday

Every Friday Steak night
-2 courses only £16.95
per person + entrance.

Please book now your
Stag/Hen/Birthday Party.

6 Pack party Offer

- 1 Admission, car parking and racecard.
- 2 Pint or Short
- 3 One pound tote bet
- 4 Quarter pounder and fries
- 5 pint or short
- 6 Return admissions, car parking and racecard plus! added bonus of free entry to disco* till 1.30am

Starts from only £12.50* per person on a Friday or Saturday. Thursday from £10.00* per person.
* Must be booked & paid for in full at least 2 weeks in advance.

Henlow Racing t: 01462 851850 | f: 01462 815593

Henlow Racing Ltd | Bedford Road | Lower Stondon | Bedfordshire SG16 6EA
www.henlow-racing-ltd.co.uk