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Cornwall's St. Michael's Mount
(this photo, by "Fuzzypiggy," and others: free of copyright c/o Wikimedia Common)

Primavera 2017:

"CELTIC FRINGES": WALES – CORNWALL - BRITTANY

15 days, from Wednesday, May 10, to Wednesday, May 24, 2017

A leisurely exploration of Wales, England's southwestern county of Cornwall, and France's own "Celtic Fringe," the beautiful Atlantic province of Brittany. The tour will be escorted by historian Jacques R. Pauwels, PhD, author of 'Beneath the Dust of Time: A History of the Names of Peoples and Places' (London, 2009), who will lecture on the ancient as well as more recent history of the areas.

Tour price, based on double occupancy: \$3,995 CAD from Toronto, including all airport taxes and related fees "Land only" (from Heathrow/to Paris CDG Airport): \$3,350 - Single room supplement: \$775
(Please note that the *total price* of this tour is only slightly higher than that of the 2016 Primavera, which was \$3,495 plus \$380 in taxes and fees for a total of \$3,875)

PROPOSED ITINERARY:

Day 1 – Wednesday, May 10:

Evening departure from Toronto on Air Canada's non-stop flight to London Heathrow. Dinner and a light breakfast will be served on board.

Day 2 - Thursday, May 11:

Morning arrival at Heathrow Airport. A comfortable private coach will be waiting to take us to **Stonehenge**, on Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire, where we will visit the world-famous UNESCO World Heritage Site featuring circles of Neolithic and Bronze Age megaliths (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/373>). Then we check into the nearby 4-star Hotel Holiday Inn Salisbury-Stonehenge (<http://hisalisbury-stonehenge.co.uk>). Free time to settle in, and dinner in the restaurant of our hotel.



< Stonehenge on an ancient drawing by Hondius & Speed (c/o Wikimedia Commons)

Day 3 - Friday, May 12:

After breakfast we motor to **Salisbury** for a stroll through the attractive old town and a visit to the famous Cathedral, whose spire (123 metres) is the tallest in England; an original copy of Magna Carta is displayed in the interior. On to **Bath** in Somerset, a historic Roman and Georgian spa classified in its entirety as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Romans called

Bath *Aquae Sulis*, Sulis presumably being a Celtic deity of healing, identified by the Romans with their goddess Minerva. During the Georgian Era, Bath became a fashionable spa, incrusting with neo-classical buildings, and today this attractive city, described as a “smorgasboard of attractions,” is one of England’s major tourist attractions. Panoramic tour of the city’s important sites and monuments: the Roman baths, Bath Abbey, **Pulteney Bridge** (with shops on both sides), **Great Pulteney Street**, and of course the Royal Crescent a magnificent crescent of 18th-century houses designed by John Wood. In late afternoon we visit the Jane Austen Centre and enjoy a traditional “high tea” (with sandwiches/scones) in its Regency Tea Room (www.janeausten.co.uk). Afterwards, transfer to the Hotel Travelodge Waterside, located near the city centre (www.travelodge.co.uk/hotels/361/Bath-Waterside-hotel?WT.srch=1&gclid=CJiOzNj0pc8CFQ8yaQod_IUAjg).



Bath’s magnificent Royal Crescent (Photo c/o Wikimedia Commons)

Day 4 – Saturday, May 13:

Full-day excursion into **Wales**, the part of Britain which has best preserved its ancient Celtic identity, and where a Celtic language, Welsh, is still spoken in spite of the land – known as *Cymru* in Welsh - being annexed by England in the 16th century. Today we focus on the capital city, **Cardiff**, where our panoramic sightseeing tour will include a visit to St. Fagans National History Museum, arguably Wales's most popular tourist attraction (<https://museum.wales/stfagans>), as well as the National Museum, an excellent collection of paintings and artifacts illustrating the history of Wales; the museum also boasts masterpieces by Rodin, Monet, Renoir, and Van Gogh (<https://museum.wales/cardiff>). Also free time to shop and/or explore on your own.

“The name Wales is a variant of the Germanic term *welsch*, originally signifying ‘Gallic’ and referring to the Celts of Gaul who, due to many centuries of Roman occupation, gradually became “Gallo-Romans” and, eventually, the French as we know them today. The meaning of *welsch* was thus displaced in the course of time, denoting first ‘speakers of a Celtic language’, and then ‘speakers of a Romance language’. During the Great Migrations accompanying the fall of the Roman Empire, Germanic migrants such as the Angles and the Saxons settled on the British Isles. These German newcomers used their own version of *welsch*, *Wahl* – plural: *Wealas* – to refer to the native Celts. The part of Britain’s “Celtic Fringe” that is called *Cymru*, ‘land of the [or our] comrades’, by its inhabitants, thus became known as “Wales”. The name *Cymru* survives, however, in English toponyms such as

Cumberland.” (From Jacques Pauwels’ book *Beneath the Dust of Time: A History of the Names of Peoples and Places.*)

Day 5 – Sunday, May 14:

Today we cross the Bristol Channel again to experience the beautiful Welsh countryside of the **Wye Valley**, along the border between Wales and England, one of the most dramatic and scenic landscapes in Britain. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wye_Valley). We will view and/or visit sights such as **Tintern Abbey**, a masterpiece of Gothic architecture; the lush green **Vale of Usk** featuring gentle rolling hills; the border town of **Chepstow**, with its Norman Castle and Cast Iron Bridge; the town of **Caerleon**, full of Roman remains, including an amphitheatre and baths as well as the excellent National Roman Legion Museum, which will also be visited, at least if time permits (<https://museum.wales/roman>). Return to Bath in late afternoon and free evening. Today, group lunch OR dinner.

The Wye Valley (Photo by R. Searle, c/o Wikimedia Commons) >



Day 6 - Monday, May 15:

Departure from Bath after breakfast. We cross **Devon(shire)**, a county tucked between the English Channel to the south and, to the north, the Irish Sea and the Bristol Channel, famous for its scenic coast and white sand beaches. Reaching the coast, we pause for lunch in the charming resort of **Torquay**. On to the seaport of **Plymouth** and into the duchy of **Cornwall** (Cornish: **Kernow**), occupying a peninsula in the extreme southwest of the UK.

“This peninsula was called *kernou*, the ‘horn,’ by the Celts on account of its shape; the term *kernou* thus also acquired the meaning of ‘peninsula.’ The inhabitants of that area were referred to as the *Kernow* (*Cornovi* in Latin), the ‘people of the horn’ or, more prosaically, the ‘inhabitants of the peninsula’. The Germanic, Anglo-Saxon immigrants on the British Isles spoke of the region of the *Wealas* in *Kernow*, and this *Kernow-Wealas* eventually spawned the toponym *Cornwall*.” (From Jacques Pauwels’ book *Beneath the Dust of Time: A History of the Names of Peoples and Places.*)

The inhabitants of Cornwall are still “fiercely proud of its Celtic identity,” and for many of them “their Cornish identity supersedes either their Englishness or their Britishness.” Our destination today is **Falmouth**, a historic seaport. Dinner and overnight in the stately Falmouth Hotel, a Victorian chateau-style hotel close to the town centre, surrounded by gardens, and overlooking the sea and the beach (www.falmouthhotel.co.uk). How about a swim in the hotel’s pool before dinner in the hotel or in a nearby restaurant?

Day 7 - Tuesday, May 16:

Free day. Circumstances permitting, an *optional* full-day excursion (by boat or possibly by plane) may be offered to the **Isles of Scilly**, an archipelago off the tip of the Cornish peninsula (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isles_of_Scilly); details and prices (starting around \$125 p.p.) will be made available ASAP; please let us know if you are interested!

Day 8 - Wednesday, May 17:

Today we tour Cornwall’s major attractions, including (hopefully) all or most of the following:

***Michael’s Mount**, a small tidal island, featuring a castle and a priory, and linked to the town of Marazion by a man-made causeway, passable at low tide; this is the Cornish counterpart of the very similar Mont Saint-Michel in Normandy, France, and it was a major station on the pilgrimage road known as the Way of St. Michael, similar to the more famous Way of St. James leading to Santiago de Compostela in Spain (www.sacred-destinations.com/england/st-michaels-mount)..

***Penzance**, a quaint seaport and market town, famous for its association with the Gilbert and Sullivan opera *The Pirates of Penzance*.

***Land's End**, the rocky headland that happens to be the most westerly point of mainland Cornwall and England.

***St. Ives**, a popular resort town and artist colony on the coast of the Celtic Sea, sometimes proclaimed to be Britain's "best seaside town."

***Truro**, the capital of Cornwall, featuring a fine Cathedral and the excellent Royal Cornwall Museum.

At the end of our tour we transfer to the seaport of **Plymouth**, with time left for a look at the city and dinner (on your own) before we board the ship of the Brittany Ferries, scheduled to set sail around 10PM for the crossing of the English Channel. The crossing will take about nine hours, and accommodation will be provided in cabins equipped with all necessary amenities.



< *St Michael's Mount on an 1865 engraving by William Miller (c/o Wikimedia Commons)*

Day 9 - Thursday, May 18:

Arrival around 8AM in **Roscoff**, a port situated at the mouth of magnificent Bay of Morlaix in Brittany. Here a comfortable coach will be waiting to take us via the scenic road along the province's rugged northern coast to our hotel in the city of **Brest**. En route we will stop frequently to take pictures, enjoy a coffee break, and lunch, and explore some of this area's many resorts, fishing villages, and little ports such as Portsall, Kersaint, Trémazan, Lanildut. Arrival in Brest and transfer to the centrally-located 4-star Hotel Amirauté

(www.oceaniahotels.com/h/hotel-l-amiraute-brest/presentation). Dinner in the hotel or in a nearby restaurant.

Day 10 - Friday, May 19:

Morning tour of the beautiful **Crozon Peninsula**, one of the most typical and interesting landscapes in Brittany, where the Breton language, a member of the Celtic family, is still spoken. Weather permitting, we may picnic on top of the **Ménez-Hom**, highest hill of the chain known as the **Montagnes Noires**, and a "sacred mountain" to the ancient Celts; and from the top there is a wonderful panorama taking in the surrounding countryside, the Bay of Brest, the Crozon Peninsula, and the Ocean in the distance. Return to Brest in mid-afternoon and free time to enjoy the city on your own. Your options include a boat tour of Brest harbor, shopping, and visits to the excellent National Naval Museum (www.musee-marine.fr/content/brest-musee-de-la-marine), located on the grounds of the imposing local chateau, originally a Roman army camp, the Museum of Fine Arts (www.musee-brest.com), and/or Oceanopolis, a showcase of life in the world's oceans, featuring a superb aquarium.



Brest's Chateau (Photo by S. Deniel, c/o Wikimedia Commons)

Day 11 - Saturday, May 20:

Departure from Brest after breakfast. We motor via the town of **Douarnenez** to the **Pointe du Raz**, Brittany's own "Land's End," the isolated and rocky promontory that is the westernmost point of Brittany and of mainland France, scoured by, and named after, the strong, "racing" Atlantic currents known in Breton as *raz*. On via **Quimper** to the seaport of **Lorient** for a look at the titanic U-Boot shelters built by the Germans during WW II. Late afternoon arrival at Le Plancton, a superior tourist-category (3-star) hotel on the waterfront in the town of **Carnac**, on the southern shore of the Brittany Peninsula (www.hotel-plancton.com/home.html). Dinner in the hotel or in a nearby restaurant.

Pointe du Raz,

*the "land's end" of France's Celtic province, Brittany
(Wikimedia Commons photo by S. Möller) >*



Day 12 - Sunday, May 21, and Day 13 - Monday, May 22:

Two days of sightseeing along Brittany's scenic south shore, with sights such as:

*The menhirs and other world-famous megalithic monuments and the Prehistory Museum of **Carnac** (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carnac> and www.museedecarnac.com/musee-carnac.php?&ln=en);

* The picturesque walled old town of **Vannes**, named after the Veneti, a seafaring Celtic tribe who lived in *Armorica* (Brittany) this part of Gaul at the time of Caesar's conquest of Gaul and who may (or may not) have been related to the original inhabitants of Venice! (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vannes>);

* The scenic and historically important **Quiberon Peninsula** (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quiberon>).

Day 14 - Tuesday, May 23:

Departure from Carnac after breakfast. We motor inland to the city of **Rennes**, Brittany's capital, for a city tour focusing on the old town with the Cathedral, the old city gates known as *Les Portes Mordelaises*, Ste. Anne Square and its wood-framed old houses, and the Brittany Parliament Palace. Group lunch in a typical restaurant. In the afternoon we motor along the expressway to the village of **Roissy en France**, next-door to Charles de Gaulle Airport, for overnight in the local Campanile Hotel (www.campanile-roissy.fr/en).

Day 15 - Thursday, May 24 After breakfast, transfer to CDG Airport (with the hotel shuttle service) in time for the 11:00 AM departure of our non-stop return flight to Toronto with Air Canada, arriving around 1:00 PM.

**Tour price, based on double occupancy: \$3,995 CAD from Toronto
(including all airport taxes and related fees)**

“Land only” (from Heathrow/to Paris CDG Airport): \$3,350 - Single room supplement: \$775)

Included in the tour price are:

- Flights Toronto-Heathrow and Paris-Toronto, with Air Canada, including **airport taxes, security fees, and fuel surcharges.**
- Accommodation based on double occupancy in a combination of first-class (4-star) and superior tourist-class (3-star) hotels, plus cabins with private facilities on the night ferry; the single room supplement is \$775);
- Breakfast daily and a total of six three-course dinners or lunch plus an English high tea in Bath!
- Overland transportation by private coach;
- Ferry crossing from Plymouth to Roscoff;
- All visits and sightseeing as outlined in the itinerary, including admission to museums and monuments mentioned.

Not included are:

- All items of a personal nature.
- Beverages with dinners, and meals other than those outlined above.
- A gratuity for the coach driver, normally \$30 or equivalent in local currency.
- Travel Insurance, available upon request.

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS:

Reservations should be made as early as possible to ensure the departure of your choice. A deposit of \$750.00 is required at the time of registration. **Your reservation is confirmed upon receipt of your deposit and application form. No reservations will be accepted without a signed application form.**

REFUND OF UNUSED ARRANGEMENTS:

Because the rates of Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. are based on group participation, no refund can be made for any tour accommodation or tour service or tour feature not taken. If cancellation occurs while the tour is in progress, no refund can be made for the tour portion not taken. We strongly suggest that to allow for any unexpected contingencies, you purchase the all-inclusive insurance.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Refund of deposit is made in full if cancellation is received in writing by Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. more than 90 days prior of the departure date of the tour less a \$500.00 non-refundable administrative fee per person. For cancellation received in writing 90 days prior or less the following cancellation charges apply:

90 days to 46 days before departure: 25% of tour cost

45 to 31 days before departure: 50% of tour cost

Within 30 days prior to departure: 100% of tour cost

RESPONSIBILITY:

Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. reserves the right without notice, to withdraw any part or all of the tour. Factors such as airline schedule changes, hotel overbookings, inclement weather, etc. February necessitate changes in the itinerary as outlined. There may also be other circumstances in which changes become necessary or advisable. Any savings realized by these changes will be passed on to the passengers, any resultant expenses shall be borne by the passenger. Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. acts only as an agent in securing hotel, transportation and other travel services and in no event shall be held responsible for the failure by any person or company to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. All hotel, transportation and other travel services are provided to tour members subject to all the terms and conditions under which they are offered to the public generally. The acceptance of the initial service to be provided under the tour shall be considered an acceptance by the tour member of those conditions. Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. also reserves the right to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour, in which case equitable refund will be made at the discretion of the tour operators.

AIR TRANSPORTATION:

Transatlantic economy flight by scheduled IATA carrier(s), based on an economy class group fare. All fares are subject to specific rules and regulations, to changes and to government approval. Deviations from the group flights are possible but subject to higher rates. Pauwels Travel will research any request for date or routing changes at the time they are requested. Should any individual rate be less than the group fare plus airline and administrative fees, the lower rate will be offered to the tour participant. Individual airfares are subject to immediate ticketing and the fare plus taxes must be paid at the time the ticket is issued by the participant requesting the change. Should the group airfare be the lowest available rate, an administrative fee of \$50.00 plus any airline charges will apply.

APPLICATION FORM

Please book ___ seat(s) on the “Celtic Fringes Tour” departing May 10 – 24, 2017..

Enclosed is my/our deposit of _____ (\$750 per person, *plus* insurance premium if taken.)

Please indicate with an X if you intend to travel on Group flights _____ or Land Only _____.

Deposit and insurance premium, if taken, are due with registration. You will be invoiced for an interim payment of \$1000.00 and the balance approximately 45 days prior to departure.

WE REQUIRE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT (INFORMATION PAGES ONLY) VALID 3 MONTHS AFTER TOUR DATE TO BE SENT IN WITH YOUR APPLICATION.

PASSPORT NAME(S): **Please** indicate the appropriate title (Mr., Mrs., Miss, Dr., Ms.)

Surname _____ First _____ Middle(s) _____

Surname _____ First _____ Middle(s) _____

If applicable, give your commonly used first name as you would like it to appear on your name tag: (e.g. “Liz” for “Mary Elizabeth”) _____

ADDRESS: _____

Postal Code: _____

PHONE: _____ (Email) _____

If traveling alone, is a SINGLE ROOM REQUIRED? YES _____ NO _____

If sharing, what is your bed preference: twin _____ double _____.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: We find the earlier a request is made, the more success we have in filling it, so **please list any dietary requests, allergies, any special physical needs or frequent flyer numbers etc here.** We cannot ensure requests made 30 days or less prior to departure will be possible.

Insurance, Please call the office for premiums then record it on application and add premium to deposit.

I /we would like to purchase (please check and record your rate):

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

All-inclusive Package _____ \$ _____ Non-medical Package _____ \$ _____

Other _____ \$ _____ **OR** Decline Insurance _____

PAYMENT: Cheque payable to Pauwels Travel Visa Mastercard American Express

Amount Paid: _____

Card Number: _____ Expiry: _____ Security Code: _____

Signature: _____

“I/we agree to the terms and conditions attached to the program, have indicated our insurance choice, indicated any special requests and included payment”.

Date _____ (Signature)(s) _____

Please forward this completed and signed form, copy of passport and payment to:

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