



Merry Old England

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Doris Ray

Are you curious about London's Big Ben, Hadrian's Wall, the white cliffs of Dover, Stonehenge, Oxford, Cambridge and Chesil Beach - just a few of the many delightful and endearing places in Merry Old England? Are you yearning for a travel romp through this land of Shakespeare, Winston Churchill, and Thomas Hardy? Want to learn about roundabouts, pubs, cottage pies, and driving on the "wrong" side of the road? Join Doris Ray as she shares memories and adventures from her travels to this country full of lore, legend and beautiful landscapes. Get a list of books, movies and websites that can help you plan your own escape to England.

Books (Fiction)

Laurie Lee - Cider with Rosie is a classic text for all English schoolchildren, set in Slad, a beautiful Cotswold village just after World War I.

Thomas Hardy - Far From the Madding Crowd, Tess of the D'Urbervilles are my favorites. There are some wonderful movie adaptations of both, and others as well.

Robert Goddard - Intricate mysteries set in England with historical connections...Start with Past Caring, In Pale Battalions, etc.

Ian McEwan - Brilliant writing by this Highly acclaimed author: On Chesil Beach, Atonement, and many others. The French Lieutenant's Woman by John Fowles is also one of my favorites. The film version stars Meryl Streep and was shot in Dorset.

Books (Travel)

Movies & Video

I especially like two streaming services: Acorn and BritBox. Of course, there's always Masterpiece Theater!

- *Foyle's War* - World War II drama set in Hastings, England - the south coast.
- Two BBC detective series - *George Gently* and *Vera* both feature filming locations in Northumberland - lots of scenes of that area, Durham and Newcastle.
- The BBC series *Broadchurch* were filmed on the Dorset coast.
- *Downton Abbey* - Classic upstairs-downstairs fare! So much fun!

Penelope Keith's Hidden Villages - Vicarious travel through the country with a flamboyant hostess!
Poirot - Agatha Christie's quirky hero solves multiple mysteries. Gotta love David Suchet.

Radio

Log on to British classical music radio - Classicfm.com. I listen to it while I'm working in the kitchen. David Suchet's (Poirot's) brother is one of the hosts!

Online Resources

Doris & Steve Ray's 30th Anniversary Trip Blog: <https://rayodessey.wordpress.com>
Google has more opportunities for planning: Search for English counties by name and for particular towns. The National Trust website at <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/> is full of amazing leads all over the UK.