

Travel

Jolly old England may just be old

Among Canadian travellers, the most popular overseas destination has long been London. But visiting the British capital these days isn't quite the same as you may remember from past visits.

On the up-side, there's a new water-borne "bus" service on the Thames between fashionable Chelsea and the Tower Bridge in London's east end. The high-speed service, operating throughout the day on a regular schedule, is to be extended eastward to Greenwich later this year.

And there's an absorbing new attraction called the Museum of the Moving Image (MOMI) located under the arches of Waterloo Bridge on the less crowded south bank of the Thames. Visitors can take a lesson in film editing, be interviewed on camera, and watch scenes from classic movies. Open daily except Monday; adult admission about \$7.

According to the just-published guidebook, *Fodor's 88: London*, a recent survey showed that 82 per cent of overseas visitors rated the Londoners they met as friendly, while only three per cent found Londoners positively unfriendly.

LITTLE GROWTH

As for the down-side, there have been few, if any, new tourist attractions (apart from MOMI) opened in London in the recent past, despite the steady rise in the volume of tourists to the metropolis.

Nor has there been any significant improvement in the urban transportation network, except for the addition of the Thames Line waterbus. "Tube" and bus fares have risen sharply in the past few years, but the Underground trains remain crowded and infrequent in some lines (although now the system does operate directly between Heathrow airport and the centre of London). Surface transportation has suffered under the pressure of ever-growing traffic jams.

It isn't only London Transport tickets and taxi fares that have risen substantially - so have nearly all the other costs facing the foreign visitor. One yardstick is the US State Department's daily allowance for government employees travelling on business: \$197 US in late 1988, highest of any European city and up 59 per cent from three years earlier.

(The allowance in Stockholm - Europe's highest in 1988 - has risen by only 23 per cent since then. The allowance covers moderately priced lodging, food, taxes, tips and laundry.)

DISCOUNTS ABUNDANT

Fortunately, cost-cutting opportunities are relatively easy to find. In the field of transportation, for instance, discounts are available, upon request, for children, students and seniors 60 or over (although membership in a youth organization, or a pensioner's identification card, may be a prerequisite.)

For extended visits to London, the "Capitalcard" provides unlimited use of certain public transportation facilities, as does the "Visitor Travelcard" for periods of three, four or seven days.

These and other "passes" have various restrictions, terms of validity and prices, and some - such as the Visitor Travelcard and Britrail Pass - should be bought before leaving Canada.

Overseas visitors, especially those who have been to London previously, would do well to acquaint themselves with the largely undiscovered possibilities of the London Underground's 10 or 11 lines (the number depends upon how you define your terms), most of which extend well out into the suburbs.

OUT OF LONDON

Take, for instance, the Metropolitan Line - oldest of their

all. One of its arms runs northwest from Baker Street station (shades of Sherlock Holmes) until it reaches its terminus at Amersham.

The town may not have quite the same charm as Chipping Camden or Burton on the Water, but it does offer a pleasant contrast to the pressures of central London - and, for those who walk a little way beyond the Underground station, some pretty rural scenes along the Mispourne River.

Another such city-to-country possibility is to take the 55 km Central Line to its eastern extremity of Epping, a market town in the county of Essex, full of historical interest and, of course, adjacent to the famous Epping Forest. Epping's market day is Monday.

Still other such trips by Tube could take the visitor to Richmond, famed for Hampton Court Palace and gardens, or south of the Thames to Wimbledon, best known for its tennis stadium (where the 1989 championship tournament will be played June 26 to July 9), but a relaxing town of great architectural interest. Richmond and Wimbledon are at the southern ends of different branches of the District Line.

ESCAPE ROUTE

For the visitor staying in central London, the Underground thus provides a relatively quick and inexpensive escape from the busy city to small-town England. (Note that the Underground trains to these destinations travel as much on the surface as beneath, despite the name.)

On the other hand, any one of those small towns could be a good base for the visitor - a quiet place to stay, with good restaurants and pubs, and yet offering easy and convenient access to the heart of London.

Few of the world's major cities are as well organized for one-day side-trips as is London, whether by rail or by bus ("coach," as the British say).

From the centre of the capital, there's a wide choice of "Day Out" sightseeing trips departing early each morning to Stratford upon Avon, Oxford, Cambridge, Canterbury, Bath (one of the most beautiful cities of Europe), Brighton, Winchester and dozens of other points of special interest, all returning to London the same evening.

TRAVEL NOTEBOOK

Here are notes on news of current interest to travellers: -The annual Crufts Dog Show at Earls Court, London, takes place over four days this year - Feb. 9 to 12.

-At the cathedral city of York, the Jorvik Viking Festival is being held Jan. 27 to Feb. 25, commemorating the role of the Danes in the early settlement of the city. A Viking craft fair takes place the week beginning Feb. 11.

-Canadians visiting Florida this winter can keep abreast of news from home with the help of a Monday-to-Saturday radio newscast, Canada Calling, on some 30 stations throughout the Sunshine State. The host, Prior Smith, delivers a 10-minute roundup of brief news highlights, Canadian weather and stock-market reports, sports and travel conditions.

Among the stations carrying it are WPBR 1340 Palm Beach at 8:30 a.m., WHOF 640 Orlando at 12:10 p.m., WTAN 1340 Clearwater at 9:23 a.m., and WINK 1240 Fort Myers at 8:45 a.m.

-Until March 31, a 10-per-cent discount is being offered on the land cost of package tours to Australia and New Zealand by Guthrie's Pacific. The tour organizer, in co-operation with Qantas Airways and Air New Zealand, issues a cheque for the discount when it delivers the final travel documents. Telephone: 800-321-2145.

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The lavish master bedroom and cozy sitting bay boasts coffered ceilings. A fireplace is shared by both the master bedroom and the ensuite. The ensuite has a whirlpool spa and shower. Den with private access to the master bedroom could easily double as an office or nursery. The three additional bedrooms share a main bathroom, with twin vanity.

The finished floor area of this spectacular design is 2804 square feet.

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In the hills

Tutor training

Help an adult learn to read. A tutor training session is planned for Feb. 8, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Acton Social Services Centre. Anyone interested in learning more about tutoring should call the North Halton Literacy Guild at 873-2200.

UWC meeting

Dr. Ron Hill, a Chiropractor with the Peel Chiropractic Clinic in Brampton is the guest speaker at the upcoming meeting of the University Womens Club of Georgetown. His presentation will focus on the holistic approach to chiropractics. The public is welcome to attend the meeting which will be held Feb. 7 at 8:30 p.m., Centennial School.

Prayer vigil

"One Earth" is the theme of a Prayer Vigil presented by 10 local churches as part of their "Ten Days for World Development" program. An hour of quiet contemplation, prayer and music is this Sunday, Feb. 5, 7 p.m. at St. George's Anglican Church. Bridgehead tea and coffee will be available. All are welcome.

POWER dance

Beat the February Blahs. Treat your favourite valentine to an evening out and support a worthwhile cause! Friday Feb. 17, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., POWER is sponsoring a "Stop the Dump" Valentine's Dance. Cost is \$10 per person. Call Ruth at 853-1328 for tickets delivered to your door.

Art opening

The Palette and Pencil Club's annual exhibition opened last night (Tuesday) and will continue to run at the Cultural Centre Gallery in Georgetown until Feb. 26.

Town says no

The empty Speyside Public School on Highway 25 won't be rented by the town of Halton Hills. The school was declared redundant by the Halton Board of Education early in 1986. Since then, Bishop Redding High School students have occupied the building but they moved into their new school in Milton last year. The Halton board is now trying to find someone to lease the facilities, and an offer was put before the town.

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BABY CAR SEAT, excellent shape, high chair, wooden Ikea, excellent condition. \$45.00. 877-0987 (es)

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GENEROUS size 10 ladies rust colored raccoon jacket. Excellent condition. \$80.00. O.B.O. 877-3023 (es)

KITCHEN TABLE with 4 chairs, \$225.00. Kitchen cupboards plus counter top and sink, also hair styling furniture: dryer, chair, sink chair, stations and mirrors, styling chair and station, esthetic magnifying lamp, and double tray unit. 853-0756.

ZENITH VR-5000 VCR and Hitachi VK-C840 Video camera, sold as a set \$800.00. 873-1820 (es)

GREAT DEAL for nursery, keep animals out with one bi-fold screen door, hardware included. \$30.00. 877-3023.

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MOTORCYCLE helmet, bought new, never used. \$40.00 O.B.O. 873-0363 ask for Lee after 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (es)

1976 Buick Century, 68,000 miles, original. Best offer. AS is. 877-5414 (es)

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1976 Buick Century, 75,000 loaded, safety. Fully loaded, 75,000 km. One owner, in excellent condition. \$1,400.00. Call Marilyn 873-0275 (es)

1985 CAMERO 5 speed, air, AM FM cassette, power windows, trunk, lift wheel, upgraded interior. \$6,900.00. 373-1030.

1979 YAMAHA GP338, snowmobile, many new parts, very fast machine, mint condition. \$1,400.00. O.B.O. 877-4681 or 877-7534.

ARCTIC CAT E1 Tigre 5000 new motor, new track. \$1,575. O.B.O. 833-7178 (es)

1987 - One month old. 80 cc Suzuki quad sport. Mint condition. 833-7178 (es)

1979 GRAND LE MANS auto, p/s, p/b, air, good condition. 833-7178 after 5.

1977 MUSTANG COBRA 2 door, new brakes, 1980 VOLKSWAGON RABBIT, 4 cyl, 4 speed, front shocks, alloy wheels, no rust, oiled twice yearly. \$1,750.00, certified. 877-1757 (es)

1988 SUZUKI Samurai V4 4x4, 27,000 km. immaculate. Asking \$10,500.00. 873-1518.

1984 FIRENZA Oldsmobile, 4 cylinder, P/S, P/B, automatic, air. Excellent condition. 16,000 km. \$4,900.00. 853-3793.

RX7, Artic Silver. Only 18,000 km. Original owner, showroom condition. Getting new Mazda. \$14,250.00. O.B.O. Must sell. 877-9458. (es)

1979 MERCURY CAPRI RS \$300.00. O.B.O. 450-9769.

1981 PHOENIX AS is \$800.00. V6, Auto, Air, AM FM Cassette, door lock, P/S, P/B. 873-3015.

1976 PLYMOUTH Gran Fury, excel. mech. cond. \$600.00 or B.O. certified. 853-1872 (es)

1987 DAKOTA 3.9 litre V6 automatic. Heavy use. Original owner. AM FM Cassette. 853-2843. (es)

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1979 DODGE 1/2 ton, 318 automatic, p/s, p/b. Asking \$900.00. 853-4580. (es)