

...Travellin' Round

"A Wonderful 25th Wedding Anniversary Trip"



by Jennifer Chedore,
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Seems like just yesterday that I was writing about my 20th anniversary trip to Hawaii with my husband and here I am letting you know about the incredible 25th anniversary trip to London and Paris we took in August 2017.

I know what some of you are thinking: how could I travel here after recent events? Honestly, we had an amazing time and never once felt unsure or unsafe. It may not be for everyone, but the beauty remains even during these uneasy times. The weather was perfect and only rained once in each city.

We spent a week in each city but the weeks were spent very differently. Our first week was in London and we booked a tour with Globus called "London & Country". It was a bit of a different tour as we stayed in one hotel for the duration and enjoyed two full day trips as well as a couple half day tours. The hotel was Park Plaza Westminster Bridge and the location was perfect with beautiful views of Big Ben and a great beginning point for our own walking adventures. The tour itself included Stonehenge and Bath, Stratford-upon-Avon and Oxford, a tour inside beautiful Buckingham Palace, an evening Thames river cruise, a local tour of some iconic sites as well as a tour of the astonishing St Paul's Cathedral. We also opted to tour the Tower of London and Warner Bros Studios for the making of Harry Potter. Included was also daily breakfast in the hotel, a couple of amazing pub dinners and a theatre production.

The tours were excellent and the guides were extremely informa-



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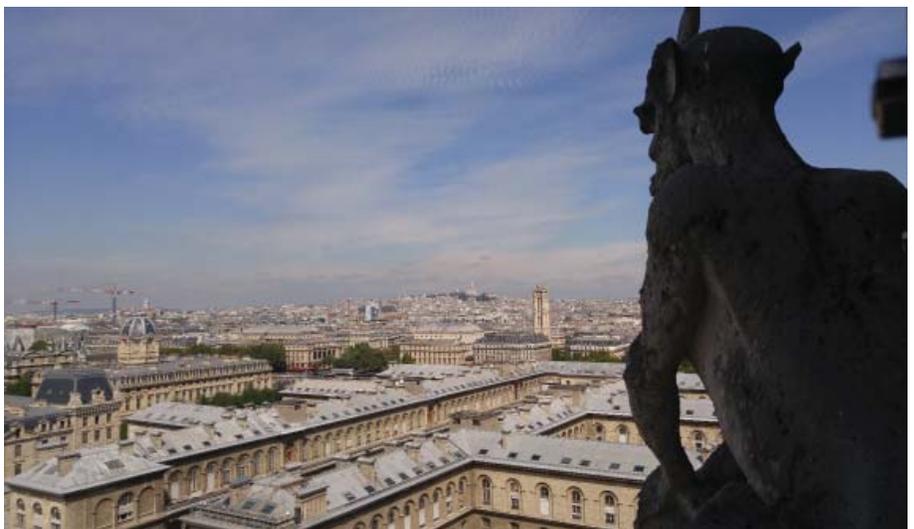
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tive. Stonehenge was breathtaking. Obviously, one of the most famous landmarks in the UK, which archaeologists believe was constructed from 3000 BC to 2000 BC.

The City of Bath is beautiful with remains of the Roman baths, the Temple of Sulis Minerva and the underground Roman archaeology all well preserved. It is no wonder that it became a World Heritage Site in 1987.

On our way to Stratford-upon-Avon, we stopped at Anne Hathaway's gor-

geous 600 year old cottage. The cottage is a twelve-roomed farmhouse complete with thatched roof where Anne Hathaway, the wife of William Shakespeare, lived as a child. In the middle of Stratford-upon-Avon sits the birthplace of William Shakespeare. This home is a restored 16th-century half-timbered house where it is believed that William Shakespeare was born in 1564 and spent his childhood years. Upon his death, his body was buried in Holy



A Wonderful 25th Wedding Anniversary Trip (Continued)

Trinity Church at the fork of the Avon and bore the eerie inscription... *Good friend for Jesus sake forbear, To dig the dust enclosed here. Blessed be the man that spares these stones, And cursed be he that moves my bones.*

Oxford University is the oldest English speaking university in the world and is one of the most prestigious to be accepted into. So much so that 7 years after receiving your degree, you can pay an undisclosed amount of money and they will provide you with your Masters-no further education necessary.

We spent our free days exploring what we could: Parliament Square, Westminster Abbey, Trafalgar Square, Covent Garden Market, and Harrods.

I was not interested in eating pub food every night so in our free evenings we would wander around looking for some interesting restaurant venues. We found a couple, off the beaten path. The Fire Station caught our eye as it is a restaurant, in yes, an old fire station. The beer was cold and the burgers were excellent. We also found an amazing Cuban restaurant called Cubana - mojitos and wings - so good.

After our tour, we boarded the Eurostar and travelled to Paris to explore on our own. The 2¼ hour ride was comfortable and since we had upgraded our seats to first class, it included a drink and light lunch. Our hotel was Hotel du Jeu de Paume and was located on l'Île Saint-Louis which is one of the two islands in the middle of Paris - perfect starting point for our days.

We purchased a 2 day hop-on-hop-off which included not only the L'Open Tour buses but also the boat transportation for one day. Personally, we are not the best with manoeuvring metro systems and these hop-on-hop-off transports are pretty much dummy-proof so it was perfect for us. There are 4 bus routes and although we were only able to do 3, it was a great way to see the monumental sights and explore them at our leisure. The buses them-

selves have audio so you do get a bit of education while sightseeing and if you want to stop, get off and explore, there will be another bus along to pick you up and move you along.

Two musts for us were The Louvre and Notre Dame Cathedral. The Cathedral was beautiful, but I also wanted to climb the tower for breathtaking views of the city. The total climb is 387 steps but worth every narrow, winding step. We were right up with the gargoyles, looking over the entire city. The Louvre was amazing but I do have to say that my favourite exhibition was in the lower level where foundations of the old fortress are still intact.

Most dinners were spent in the Latin Quarter as restaurants are

abundant and competition for patrons is high. This makes prices reasonable but we did enjoy a couple fantastic meals on l'Île Saint-Louis with L'Ilot Vache being highly recommended by a couple of my co-workers.

In a blink of an eye, it was time to board our flight and return home but it was another amazing vacation spent with my husband for our anniversary celebration. I just may have to keep him around to see what is in store for our 30th!

If you want to inquire more about a London and Paris vacation or wish to plan a special anniversary away, feel free to contact me at Jennifer@blowstravel.com or 519-472-3232. I would love to work with you to plan a memorable trip.



“
Not enough women recognize
the signs of heart attack
and know what to do.
My mom was one of them.”

Help change that.
Share the signs.
Raise funds for research.

Join Joannie
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Area office contact information:



Joannie Rochette
Olympic medallist, figure skating
Honorary Chair, Heart & Stroke Canvasser

Olympic figure skater Joannie Rochette is the new Honorary Chair of Heart & Stroke Canvasser.

Joannie inspired millions of people in Canada with her courage and grace when she skated to win a bronze medal at the Vancouver Olympics in 2010, just two days after her mother, Thérèse, died of a heart attack at 55.

Joannie is now studying to become a doctor. And she's doing everything she can to make Heart & Stroke Canvasser a success. Not only do volunteers raise funds for research, they also share life-saving information with their family, friends and neighbours. This year the focus is on recognizing the signs of a heart attack, something very close to Joannie's heart.

Join Joannie now! Become a Heart & Stroke volunteer canvasser. You can canvasser in person or online. A few hours of your time in February will help save lives. Visit heart and stroke dot ca slash help to sign up.