



Air Groups



Our very successful English language courses are now in their 19th year. We have now welcomed over 34,000 students to these courses, almost all from Eastern and Central Europe. Most students come as part of a group with their regular teachers. Our pre-course consultation ensures that what we provide is what will most help the students! Where numbers from one school make things uneconomic, we try to link schools together. However our pricing structure does mean we can receive very small groups and our Open Courses now offer a fixed (and usually lower) price as well.

The overwhelming feedback on our courses is excellent - our practical courses concentrate on giving students confidence to use English naturally. Our host families provide a lot of help with this in the evenings and on Sunday. If a student only has a short time with us for a language course, we want that time made maximum use of, and those evenings are very important!! Since 2003, our new location and greater use of drama in the courses have further enhanced our reputation.

The daytime is usually divided into two; one half classes, the other short trips or activities. Lessons involve a great deal of practical use of language, dealing with real situations, and are often related to work done with the families or in the activities or visits undertaken. The visits are both to beautiful places and with guides who further engage the students in using the language.

POINTS TO NOTE

- One teacher comes free for every 8 - 9 students (4 with 36-39 students, 5 with 40-47)
- The BEST VALUE quality English course in the UK
- 10% deposit confirms the booking
- We are open ALL year! The climate is moderate, and winters are mild - the Atlantic Ocean is just 10 km away!
- The price is INCLUSIVE - no hidden extras, other than any special requests e.g. Youth hostels, or visits after leaving Devon.
- Quoted course length is the number of days IN England, so the number of nights in Devon is one less
- Full 8½ hour programme each day except family day
- Students will be placed in friendly and supportive families, often with other students who maybe from another country
- One half price place is available for every 18 students in the group, for children of accompanying teachers - these do not count towards determining the number of teaching groups or free teacher places.
- We can book Youth hostels to extend the stay in the UK, but need to be paid for at the time of booking (exact price + £20 booking fee)
- We try to help teachers form groups with other schools. We do not use agents.
- We do cover expenses incurred by the organising teacher, so no teacher will be out of pocket organising a group.
- Additional teaching groups can be agreed. Normally 1 is given for up to 18 fully paid students, 2 for 19 - 40 students and 3 if more.
- Safety and security of students are paramount - and the small towns we are based in provide a safe environment
- SOL is a small organisation and treats everyone personally before during and after the stay.

LOCATION

SOL has 3 centres in Devon based in the market towns of Barnstaple, Bideford and Tiverton, approximately 300 km due west of London in the beautiful Southwest of England. This is the REAL England!!!

THE FAMILIES

All families have been carefully selected and are personally visited in their homes by SOL, to ensure that we only use good, supportive friendly hosts. They provide all meals (including packed lunch on course days), and take responsibility for getting the student to and from the SOL centre. If any problems arise, they are dealt with on a personal level.

Bedroom accommodation will provide necessary privacy for quiet reading and study, though much of the evening time and Sunday will be spent with the family itself. Many families enjoy welcoming more than one student at a time and we have found that when students are placed together they help and encourage each other to use English in a family environment. It is often possible to place students from different nationalities together in a family.

Students and teachers are asked to complete a simple information sheet about themselves in order to help us match families and guests as far as possible. These sheets need to be received by us at least 4 weeks before the course begins.

TRAVEL

By air or public service coach.

We meet you at your arrival point in London or Bristol and provide all the transport within the programme, plus direct transfers between airport and Devon by public or private coach or minibus. For a group of 40 students, the cost of the course is almost the same as using their own coach. For smaller groups we can sometimes negotiate a lower price in less busy periods.

WHEN TO VISIT

Inevitably we have too many requests for the spring and summer vacation periods, but it is very busy then, and we do urge teachers to discuss with their Head about a term-time visit if at all possible. The educational value to a student of such a trip is unquestionable!! It benefits more than just their English and is perhaps the most significant experience of their school career.

As for the weather, the climate is moderate in all seasons, and the good sunshine record is one of the reasons why it is such a popular holiday area. Although it can be unpredictable most groups find it much better than its image!! When it rains, it rarely lasts long, and, even in winter, day temperatures are always above 0°C.

Arrival in Devon will normally be on a Monday or Tuesday (Sunday for 7 day visits). In Devon the whole programme is fully organised, but after leaving Devon the responsibility lies with the group leader, though SOL is ready to give as much assistance as needed in planning further visits. Many groups plan additional nights at Youth Hostels near London or elsewhere enabling the group to visit other places of interest (e.g. Bath, Oxford, Stratford). SOL is ready to help with all this! As well as accommodation, SOL is usually able to arrange additional transport for any programme either before or after the course in Devon. Such requests need to be made as early as possible in order to determine both the cost and availability of the coach. There is a special booking form for these extra requests.

Please visit our website: www.sol.org.uk