



Coach 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.

The overwhelming feedback on 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, NOT including the number of days on the coach!!
- 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
- 2 half price places are available, in a full 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.

- The 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 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 6 weeks before the course begins.

TRAVEL

By coach is usually your most economical way of travelling, and you see a lot of Europe en route! You arrange the coach transport in your own country, we organise the ferry and driver accommodation and the coach is used for all trips. Linking with other schools in the area may make this more of a possibility as a full coach will mean lower costs to the students.

WHEN TO VISIT

Inevitably we have too many requests for the spring and summer holiday periods, 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 afternoon (Sunday for 7 day visits). The departure, if you have your own coach the following week, will be early enough to allow a full 8+hour day in London. 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!

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