

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 with you 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 after the successful trial in 2008 of our open courses we are extending this scheme for the two month period June 23 to August 27. It means whatever size your group is, you pay the fixed price of £405. Conditions are explained below.

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 place is free for every 8 students (there may be a small charge if the group is smaller)
- 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 FIXED and INCLUSIVE - no hidden extras, other than any special requests e.g. Youth hostels, or visits after leaving Devon.
- The course involves 10 days and 9 nights in England
- Full 8½ hour programme each day except family day
- Students will be placed in friendly and supportive families, sometimes with other students from another country
- Individual, unaccompanied students who are 16 or older may apply
- We do cover expenses incurred by the organising teacher, so no teacher will be out of pocket organising a group.
- The number of teaching groups will depend on the number of students and their relative levels, but we will be working on a maximum ratio of approximately 1:15
- 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.
- One half price place is available for children of accompanying teachers if their own group is 18 or more.

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

SOL will provide all transport from and to London hostels or airports as detailed below.

WHEN TO VISIT

The open courses are only operating in the period June 23 to August 27 as 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 be on the following days: Mondays: July 5, July 19, August 9 and Wednesdays June 23, July 28 and August 18.

SOL will arrange to meet each group at a London location (airport or hostel) at an agreed time up to 13.30 before transferring to Devon via Stonehenge (if there have been no delays). Groups whose best flights arrive after 13.30 should fly the previous day and arrange accommodation in London (SOL can deal with this).

Departure from Bideford will be at 06.30 on July 2,14,28 and August 6,18 27. Return flights should not be booked before 12.30 from Heathrow or 14.30 from the other London airports. Again London accommodation should be considered if earlier flights are preferred.

SOL cannot guarantee to offer additional coach journeys within London for sightseeing at the time of booking. However once the make up of the final group is known then it may be possible to offer this for a supplementary payment.

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