

## UK 2009 Post Hike Report

Dear Crossroads Hikers,

Photos and videos of the recently completed Crossroads Hikers two week adventure (September 9-22, 2009) to Scotland and England can be viewed at <http://outdoors.webshots.com/album/574767514IFIBOC>.

The four of us...Diane, Jeff, Maddie and myself...departed LAX on September 9<sup>th</sup> and arrived the next day in London. After a nights rest and then a 4.5 hour 400 mile long train ride on September 11<sup>th</sup> we arrived in Edinburgh, Scotland. The highlights of our visit included visiting Edinburgh Castle overlooking the town next to the Firth of Forth and walking along the North Sea shore at the fishing village of Dunbar.



Edinburgh Scotland

On the sixth day of our journey we departed Scotland on a 1 ½ hour train ride to Windermere in the Lake District of Cumbria, NW England. The next three days were dedicated to exploring this marvelously beautiful land of green covered hillsides, slate rock and hedgerow fences, free ranging sheep, glacial lakes, cobblestone paved streets and native rock houses.



Lake Windermere in Cumbria NW England

On September 17<sup>th</sup> (day 8 of our journey) we made our longest train trip ( 5 ½ hours) from Windermere to Swindon in the SW England County of Wiltshire. The next three days were devoted to hiking around the town and canals of Bath that Jane Austen made famous in her writings; viewing the 4000 year old rock circles of Stonehenge and Avebury; and enjoying the charm of the Cotswold village of Fairford that Thomas Kinkade made famous in his paintings.



Stonehenge in Wiltshire, Western England

The final 3 days of our adventure were spent in London exploring this fascinating city. On Sunday September 20<sup>th</sup> (day 12), shortly after our train arrived from the west of England, we rushed over to Buckingham Place to witness the Changing of the Guard Ceremony. After anxiously waiting at the Palace Gate for a period of time with 100's of other spectators we were disappointed to learn the ceremony had been cancelled. At this point we hurriedly walked to the nearby Westminster Abbey to witness the impressive Battle of Britain Sunday Celebration concluding moments in front of the Abbey. The multitude of uniformed RAF members and veterans combined with an RAF Flyover was very extraordinary. Lots of walking around the town, a cruise on the Thames River, riding the Millennium Ferris Wheel, a service at St Paul's Cathedral and last minute shopping was the finalization of our UK journey.



Buckingham Palace in London

During the 14 days of our trip we had a grand time with lots of walking, sightseeing and meeting people. Perhaps you can participate in a similar future Crossroads Hikers adventure to an exotic location?

May God richly bless you,  
Art Sutorus