

[00:00:01.530]

Welcome to the UK Travel Planning Podcast. Your host is the founder of the UK travel planning website, Tracy Collins. In this podcast, Tracy shares destination guides, travel tips and Itinerary ideas, as well as interviews with a variety of guests who share their knowledge and experience of UK travel. To help you plan your perfect UK vacation, join us as we explore the UK, from cosmopolitan cities to quaint villages, from historic castles to beautiful islands and from the picturesque countryside to seaside towns.

[00:00:38.170] - Tracy Collins

Hi, and welcome to episode 32 of the UK Travel Planning Podcast. In this week's episode, I chat with Wendie Hume, who travelled with her husband Darryl from New South Wales, Australia to the UK for 31 days in October 2022. In this episode, Wendie talks about how she planned the trip, the highlights of their itinerary, including places visited during their road trip from Edinburgh to Southampton. Her favourite experiences, accommodation options and tips from her trip. So, without further ado, let's hear from Wendy.

[00:01:10.710] - Tracy Collins

I like to say that I'm really happy that we've got Wendy joining us on the podcast today because I think you're the first Australian that we did an Itinerary consult with that's actually come on the podcast to talk about the trip, so that's going to be really exciting for fellow Aussies to hear. So do you want to introduce yourself, Wendie, and tell us a little about where you live and just a bit about your background?

[00:01:33.910] - Tracy Collins

Yeah.

[00:01:34.260] - Wendie Hume

So I'm Wendie and I live down on the New South Wales south coast. A little town called Burrell Lake.

[00:01:40.870] - Tracy Collins

Yeah.

[00:01:41.410] - Wendie Hume

I'm a registered nurse and we've been wanting to go to the UK for a long time and so my husband Darryl and I, we sat down one day and started jotting where we wanted to go and that's what happened.

[00:01:54.400] - Tracy Collins

I know you joined the group and then you contacted us, didn't you, because you had quite a big Itinerary plan, because you would join in a cruise at the end of your trip around the UK.

[00:02:05.150] - Wendie Hume

That's correct.

[00:02:06.090] - Wendie Hume

So most of our holidays we ever do involve a cruise of some description, so we wanted to add this holiday on. It actually became bigger than what we originally planned. We were just going to have a week in London, but I wanted to go to where my grandparents were from and it sort of just went from there.

[00:02:27.420] - Tracy Collins

And it ended up being - so how long were you actually in the UK altogether?

[00:02:32.510] - Wendie Hume

31 days.

[00:02:34.190] - Tracy Collins

Wow.

[00:02:36.190] - Wendie Hume
Not long enough.

[00:02:37.650] - Tracy Collins
Oh, really? I know you want to go back. I'm so excited that you want to go back. It's brilliant. And do the North Coast 500, so that's so exciting.

[00:02:45.340] - Wendie Hume
That's definitely on our plan for either 24 or 25. Personally, I'd like to go back to twelve and spend twelve months there.

[00:02:56.120] - Tracy Collins
Oh, wow. You loved it so much.

[00:02:58.410] - Wendie Hume
Absolutely loved it. I just don't know if I can get a visa for that long.

[00:03:03.680] - Tracy Collins
Okay, well, you're a nurse, so you never know. I don't know the visa situation, but I know the UK crying out for nurses, so you never know. So I don't know what the ins and outs are, but wow. But your roots are from your grandparents. Both sides are from the UK, is that right? From England?

[00:03:22.530] - Wendie Hume
Yeah, both my grandparents. So, yeah, my maternal grandmother was from Cumbria District and my grandfather sorry, my maternal, both of them. And my grandfather, he was from Northumberland. Newbiggin by the sea.

[00:03:39.330] - Tracy Collins
Yeah, my part of the world. So that was so exciting when you told me that we're probably related to somewhere. Just give us a kind of a brief overview of what you did, because I know when we first started talking to you, because I think you'd kind of priced it up with a travel agent and you were going to do it that way, and then you decided that you kind of do it yourself.

[00:03:58.990] - Wendie Hume
I would never have had the courage to do it if it wasn't for you and Doug.

[00:04:02.480] - Tracy Collins
Yeah.

[00:04:03.020] - Wendie Hume
So after our chat with you, we sat down and we revised what we wanted to do and where we wanted to go.

[00:04:09.520] - Wendie Hume
So we knew we had to be.

[00:04:10.930] - Wendie Hume
In Southampton at a certain date, we knew we wanted a week in London and we knew we wanted to go to Northumberland and the Lake District and the Jacobite steam train, so we just sort of plotted it out from there.

[00:04:25.170] - Tracy Collins
Yeah, you did a really good job as well doing it. Kind of going up one side of the country and coming back and I think you got everything in it that you wanted to go to, didn't you?

[00:04:35.000] - Wendie Hume
We absolutely did.

[00:04:37.530] - Wendie Hume
We certainly did. We saw everything we wanted to see. People might say it was rushed, but it wasn't rushed. Certainly, if you could have three nights in a spot, it would be much better, but we just worked through the timeframe that we had and saw as much as we could in case we never got back there again.

[00:04:56.820] - Tracy Collins
Yeah, you did a really good job of it, actually. I mean, I was going to ask you, because we're busy writing up a kind of four week itinerary, road trip itinerary, and we're going to look at what you worked out and what we worked out, because it was really good. It was really good. And you went to Scotland, you went to Wales, you went to England, even went down to Cornwall, didn't you? You went right down there.

[00:05:17.900] - Tracy Collins
We did it did everything in, which was really good.

[00:05:22.010] - Wendie Hume
Yeah, it was tight, but it was amazing. It was absolutely amazing. And we saw everything.

[00:05:30.420] - Tracy Collins
And that was really good following your trip as well, because I know you had a Facebook page where you were putting lots of pictures on and it was really cool to see where you were and how you were enjoying it as well.

[00:05:40.700] - Wendie Hume
Yeah, that was good.

[00:05:42.280] - Tracy Collins
So, obviously, some of the destinations that.

[00:05:44.370] - Tracy Collins
You went, like, you wanted to go.

[00:05:45.580] - Tracy Collins
To London, and obviously you had to be down in Southampton to pick up the cruise ship. And obviously, because you have family connections, you wanted to go to the Lake District in Northumberland, and I know you really wanted to do the Jacobite. So what about the other places that you chose to go? How did you kind of choose those?

[00:06:02.390] - Wendie Hume
Your Facebook page. People's comments. Google and Google. And my bible was the Rick Steve's UK planning book and the Lonely Planet planning book. I just read them from page after page after page for twelve months, highlighting things, researching things, going back to Google.

[00:06:24.680] - Tracy Collins
Looking at things, obviously, looking at our website.

[00:06:28.430] - Wendie Hume
Ah your website, messaging you in the middle of the night.

[00:06:34.270] - Tracy Collins
It was fine. It was fine. We just wanted to make sure that you were right with how you were planning it and that you felt comfortable with everything that you planned. Because I know you're a bit nervous and I know when we talked about it, you were really nervous about doing the guest houses and the

B&B's, but I think you really enjoyed them.

[00:06:55.250] - Wendie Hume

Absolutely loved them. Next time, that's all I'm doing. Because we never stayed in a B&B or a guest house before, so we were really nervous about that. But they were great. We had a great time. We didn't have a bad one.

[00:07:10.810] - Tracy Collins

Tell us what is because I'm always telling everybody what's so special about staying in a B&B or a guest house, but tell everybody, all the listeners, what it was about that made that you really enjoyed.

[00:07:21.450] - Wendie Hume

It was just really homely and just really personal the service. Absolutely loved it. It was just small, they weren't crowded, so you didn't have a lot of people. And at breakfast, there might have only been two or three other couples.

[00:07:35.740] - Wendie Hume

And you all got to sort of.

[00:07:37.040] - Wendie Hume

Catch up and talk about what you.

[00:07:39.270] - Wendie Hume

Were doing that day and what you've done the day before.

[00:07:41.880] - Wendie Hume

And you got hints from each other.

[00:07:43.480] - Tracy Collins

Exactly. And the people that own the guest house, the B and B, they'll tell you great places to go or where not to go. And like I say, you meet other people from all over the world who are also doing the same as you. And it's great because, like I say, you get loads of hints and tips from them, don't you?

[00:07:56.780] - Wendie Hume

So the B&Bs are amazing. Like, just so much more personal than a hotel. Just nice and cosy.

[00:08:03.770] - Tracy Collins

Yes. And of course, we're talking before, there's only a few of you probably stay in there. There's people from all over the world that are staying there. You get that chance to have a chat at breakfast, don't you?

[00:08:14.240] - Wendie Hume

Yeah, you certainly do. And just like some bushwalks that people told us about and we were at one at Windermere in the Lake District and one couple said to us, we said we were going to the Llandudno. Is that how you say it in North Wales? Yes. And they said, make sure you stop at Chester, have lunch at Chester, go into Chester. And that was the best day. Without them telling us, we would never have gone there.

[00:08:38.500] - Tracy Collins

You know, I'm so glad that you went to Chester because I've got a whole article on Chester and it doesn't come up very often, but isn't it it's such a lovely, lovely place to visit.

[00:08:46.510] - Wendie Hume

It was amazing. We absolutely loved it. We weren't even going to stop for half now and we were there for half a day. It was amazing.

[00:08:52.920] - Tracy Collins

Brilliant. Well, you can definitely put that on your list when you go back again, then.

[00:08:56.540] - Wendie Hume
Definitely.

[00:08:58.730] - Tracy Collins
Do you want to give us kind of like a brief kind of over the 31 days? Because obviously we can't spend an hour talking about it would be great, too. But could you go through each of the places kind of order that you went? And then also the highlights of those different places would be amazing as well.

[00:09:14.930] - Wendie Hume
So we had six days in London, which was really good. We weren't organised for London. We didn't organise our time well there. We saw everything we wanted to see. We stayed at the Tower Bridge, down at the Tower Bridge area, which we thought was a great area.

[00:09:32.950] - Wendie Hume
It was so handy.

[00:09:33.930] - Wendie Hume
We stayed at the Tower Hotel and had a view of Tower Bridge and it was just amazing. So we really enjoyed London, but we missed a lot of stuff because we weren't prepared. We weren't prepared for everything not to open till 10:00.

[00:09:49.690] - Tracy Collins
Okay.

[00:09:51.050] - Wendie Hume
We were not prepared for that. So we were up and out and ready to go at 07:00 and then we'd have to wait.

[00:09:58.110] - Tracy Collins
That's not going to be the case in the UK.

[00:10:01.070] - Wendie Hume
That's okay. We did everything we wanted to do. We missed Camden markets and the Soho area, but that's okay. We saw everything else we wanted to see.

[00:10:11.810] - Tracy Collins
Yeah, exactly.

[00:10:13.750] - Wendie Hume
Then we caught the train to York. We caught the LNER train and that was such a great experience. If we went back, we'd travel more by train. It was really good. We caught the train to York. Absolutely love York. Everybody says to us, what was your favourite part of the UK? And we say, everywhere we went was our favourite.

[00:10:36.320] - Tracy Collins
Yeah. Oh, that's great.

[00:10:37.880] - Wendie Hume
You can't narrow it down. Everything has something different to offer.

[00:10:41.410] - Tracy Collins
Absolutely. Yeah, that's true, that's true.

[00:10:44.160] - Wendie Hume
So we spent some time in York and the Train Museum, I just put that on our itinerary for Darryl,

because I knew that was something that he so we did that the first afternoon we got there, so we weren't rushed. And he loved it. It was heaven. I didn't think he'd ever walk out.

[00:11:01.170] - Tracy Collins

It's a bit like Doug. Whenever we go to York, he spends half his life in the train museum.

[00:11:05.100] - Wendie Hume

Yeah, Darryl just loved the train. And it was free. Yeah, free. It was free. It was great. And the wall. We just loved the wall. We walked the wall and York minster. We could have spent forever in there.

[00:11:20.280] - Tracy Collins

Did you climb up to the top?

[00:11:22.110] - Wendie Hume

No, it was booked out. Unfortunately, when we were there, we much preferred that to Westminster Abbey.

[00:11:29.800] - Tracy Collins

Okay.

[00:11:31.150] - Wendie Hume

Simply because we found Westminster Abbey too crowded, too many people, you couldn't enjoy it. We were able to say, yes, we've been there, done it. But York Minster was just amazing. And like the Underground bit where they'd been doing the renovations and all that history under there, it was really good.

[00:11:52.530] - Tracy Collins

That's good.

[00:11:53.810] - Wendie Hume

Then we did the Shambles. So after that, we headed off, we caught the train, got on the train again and went to Edinburgh. There was track work, so we had to go the long way and go the scenic way, which was really nice. We didn't care. Yeah, that was really good. The trains are amazing. We just can't believe how good the train system was to hear that.

[00:12:17.710] - Tracy Collins

Because he used to work on that.

[00:12:19.930] - Wendie Hume

Well, yeah, it was your suggestion to do the train. And because we couldn't find hotels with car parking. And if they did, it was like \$100 a day. So it was easier out once we left Edinburgh. So we headed up to Edinburgh and had three nights in Edinburgh, which was a nice amount of time. Still didn't see it all. I guess the highlight of Edinburgh was climbing up Arthur's Seat. You did it again. I was inspired by Doug. I didn't think I'd do it, but we did it well.

[00:12:52.550] - Tracy Collins

He's going to be so chuffed, but I think he knows. I will tell him again that you did it because we did it well, because, you know, we were talking the day that he did it in Edinburgh.

[00:13:01.840] - Tracy Collins

Yeah, I had toothache.

[00:13:02.980] - Tracy Collins

So I just went back to the hotel because I'm having that tooth taken out tomorrow. It's just given me problems ever since. And I just went back to the hotel, feeling sorry for myself, and he's like, no, I'm going to climb it. It's a really good day. And he was determined. So you'll be dead chuffed that you did that.

[00:13:17.890] - Wendie Hume

Well, Darryl didn't want to do it. He said no. And then we decided on right on Sunset, we were going to do it. Darryl goes, I didn't want to do it on my own. He said, I know how much you want to do it. Let's go do it. So we did it. We walked down in the dark. It was great. It was the highlight, absolute highlight of Edinburgh.

[00:13:37.440] - Tracy Collins

Oh, brilliant. Did you get the good views? Obviously it'll be dark.

[00:13:41.330] - Wendie Hume

The beautiful views at the top. Absolutely stunning views at the top. Walked through the beautiful old cemetery, found some old ancestor graves there. So that was really good, too.

[00:13:55.450] - Tracy Collins

Cool.

[00:13:56.090] - Wendie Hume

On Darryl side of the family.

[00:13:58.090] - Tracy Collins

Yeah. Oh, that's cool.

[00:13:59.620] - Wendie Hume

Yeah. So that was good. And the Royal Yacht Britannia. That was another highlight.

[00:14:07.390] - Tracy Collins

Obviously, with the Crown recently kind of highlighted the Royal Britannia stuff even more interesting. People don't see that now, but yeah, I'm glad you went to see that. Three days. Obviously, you did quite a lot, though, in the three days that you were there. So you were busy. So you just walked around Edinburgh. Obviously. It's a walkable city. It's a lot of stairs up and down, though, isn't it?

[00:14:31.350] - Wendie Hume

We got the hop on, hop off bus. The royal package. So they got that, and that was really good. We found those to be quite good. We got the Hop on, Hop Off buses just about everywhere.

[00:14:44.330] - Tracy Collins

It's a good way to get orientated as well, isn't it? Good way to get orientated with the place.

[00:14:49.290] - Wendie Hume

Yeah, and find where things are some places. You didn't need it, but we did. But then we left Edinburgh, and that's where we picked up the hire car. And then we had a bit of drama with the hire car, so we didn't get out of Edinburgh until later, till lunchtime, which we lost half a day. And then we programmed Stirling into it. But there must be a Sterling in England, because our Navman was taking us back to England, not up to Inverness. All right, so we lost a lot of time that day, so we drove to Inverness by Sterling. So we were hoping to have kind of a good part of the day in Sterling, so we missed the Kelpies.

[00:15:30.170] - Tracy Collins

Okay.

[00:15:31.020] - Wendie Hume

We went to the wheel. That was amazing. That was really good. That was amazing. Then we headed to Stirling. So we had planned to do the William Wallace Monument and Stirling Castle, but because of the lost time, we had to choose, so Braveheart won out.

[00:15:50.000] - Tracy Collins

Okay.

[00:15:50.930] - Wendie Hume

So we climbed the monument, and that was something else.

[00:15:55.650] - Tracy Collins

Oh, that's good. Well, when we were back last year, we ended up with some friends, and it kind of put us way behind, so we didn't end up so we had to do so we went to the castle instead. But looks like we've been at the Wallace Monument before, but it's like, no, we're going there next time again.

[00:16:08.200] - Wendie Hume

So the next time we drove past the castle and took a photo and had a look, we were time constraints, so we had to choose one or the other. So we chose that. And that was really good.

[00:16:18.790] - Tracy Collins

Yeah, we were in the same boat. Sometimes you have to it's like things happen and your schedule doesn't go quite as you want it.

[00:16:24.830] - Wendie Hume

Yeah.

[00:16:25.450] - Tracy Collins

But then did you drive straight up to Fort William?

[00:16:27.910] - Wendie Hume

No, we didn't. Then up to Inverness and had two nights in Inverness, and that was it for me. I said to Darryl, that's it, holidays over, quitting my job, I'm living here, I'm moving here. I love it.

[00:16:40.340] - Tracy Collins

Oh, wow.

[00:16:41.310] - Wendie Hume

Inverness was really just did not expect it. It was beautiful. I don't know what it was, I just loved it. We loved it.

[00:16:48.120] - Tracy Collins

Yeah. Wow.

[00:16:49.490] - Wendie Hume

And we did the Culloden Battlefields, which was really that's something else.

[00:16:54.610] - Tracy Collins

Yeah. That museum is excellent at Culloden, isn't it? It's really good. I don't know if you were there, there were people kind of showing you, like, the different weapons are used and all sorts of things in the battle. Really good.

[00:17:05.130] - Wendie Hume

That was really good. And we went out I can't remember what it was called. We went out to a Fort - Fort George. Yes. That was it. We went out there. That was really good, too. That was a really good morning as well. So then we drove down from Inverness, down to Fort William, and we did the Loch Ness. We did a river cruise on the Loch Ness and in the pouring rain, that was the first day of rain, so that was the second week and it was the first rain we got. You had good weather when you were there? We had really good weather. We were really lucky, so we had really good weather. So we did the Jacobite train and that was just something else. We loved that. We like steam trains and we just had a great day. So then we had a really big day and everyone kind of said to us, Are you crazy? But we did what we wanted to do and we drove from Fort William to a place called Lowick, right? Yes. And Lowick was just something that I Googled to find somewhere that was close to Holy Island, that we

could sleep the night and found this hotel.

[00:18:11.470] - Wendie Hume
So we were a bit nervous.

[00:18:13.290] - Tracy Collins
Right.

[00:18:14.080] - Wendie Hume
And, oh, my goodness, this place was amazing. It was the best little pub in the middle of nowhere. Amazing. Absolutely. Food was beautiful, the hotel was staff were amazing. Our room was something else and it was just in the middle of nowhere.

[00:18:33.570] - Tracy Collins
I'm going to have to get all the names of all these places that you stayed at.

[00:18:37.010] - Wendie Hume
Yes.

[00:18:37.720] - Tracy Collins
Because people want to know, because you stayed in some fantastic places.

[00:18:42.460] - Wendie Hume
That place at Lowick was just like as I said, it was was like just picked that'll. Do we'll stay there? It's only a five minute drive to Holy Island Aussies because we weren't sure what the tides were going to be and if we were going to get over there, because everyone told us it was such a long drive. You're crazy. You'll never get there in time. But it was easy.

[00:18:59.200] - Tracy Collins
You guys are aussies.

[00:19:00.430] - Tracy Collins
I know.

[00:19:02.010] - Tracy Collins
You know what? If we want to drive, we drive 9 hours here.

[00:19:07.950] - Wendie Hume
So we Googled on our way. I didn't even think it was a thing, but I Googled to see our last name being Hume, if there's a Hume Castle anywhere. And of course there's a whole village, HCotswoldsume village with a Hume castle.

[00:19:20.990] - Tracy Collins
Oh, wow.

[00:19:21.410] - Wendie Hume
So we went just out of Kelso. So it was in the border region. So on our way, we detoured and we went and checked out this amazing little castle on a hill, like ruins of this castle. That was a real highlight as well. We love that.

[00:19:36.090] - Tracy Collins
I love the way that you travel. You're so great the way you kind of do that research. And you're like, I'm going to go here. And then you look something up and go, it's brilliant. It's really cool.

[00:19:45.150] - Wendie Hume
And we had this we sort of said to ourselves, we can't do everything. We know we want to do a lot. We can't do everything. So we missed the Cotswolds but we weren't that concerned. We know that you

said that's a really good place to go, and it is somewhere we do want to go another time. But for us to what we wanted, that was like, yeah, we can't do it, or we will give that one a miss.

[00:20:11.560] - Tracy Collins

Exactly. And the thing is, like, you've been there, you loved it, and you're going to go back. So the next time you can include it. You did a lot. You did a lot in the time that you were there. So sometimes you just have to I'm going back over for three months again this year. I was back three months and, you know, I didn't get everywhere I wanted to go. I didn't get to Oxford last year, and that's the first place on the top of my list. I didn't get a chance to go last year. So you just have to go. Right, okay. I can't fit it in. What I say when I do that itinerary thing is like, what is the thing I really must do? Like to do? And then you do your must use and then if you can fit this like to do, then that's great.

[00:20:52.670] - Wendie Hume

And you can't procrastinate that and you can't think, oh, I wish I did that. I wish I did that. You just got to make the decision and do it. We crammed a lot into Northumberland. We did Holy Island and then Bamburgh castle all in one day. When I look back now, I don't know how we fit it in, but we did.

[00:21:10.090] - Tracy Collins

But you did. And you were determined to do that. You got out. Because I know Hadrian's Wall was something that Daryl was really interested in.

[00:21:17.270] - Wendie Hume

So we stayed at Newbiggin by the Sea that night, which was a Sunday night. And then we because that was where my grandfather was from. So we went and found his house he grew up in and everything missed out on a Sunday roast. That's another story. Sunday roast in England. I'm not that easy to come by. So then we went so we left from Newbiggin by the Sea, and then we kind of did the Hadrian's wall across to get to the other side. So that was really good. We really enjoyed that. We need to go back and spend more time there as well.

[00:21:48.420] - Tracy Collins

Yeah.

[00:21:49.570] - Wendie Hume

So then we headed over to Cockermouth, which is sort of not somewhere that people would normally go, but because of family connections we went there. That was really lovely. Lovely little place. Really beautiful little place. And then headed on down to Lake Windermere.

[00:22:04.850] - Tracy Collins

Yeah, lovely.

[00:22:06.230] - Wendie Hume

So that was amazing. Really amazing. Just could have stayed there too. It was just like we felt like for the first because it wasn't we weren't on holidays. We were there to see what we could see and just to experience England. And we got to Lake Windermere and I thought I was on a summer holiday. We even sat down by the water, had an ice cream and just soaked up the atmosphere. It was really, really nice.

[00:22:31.340] - Tracy Collins

Oh, lovely.

[00:22:32.280] - Wendie Hume

And again, stayed in a really nice guest house there as well.

[00:22:36.580] - Tracy Collins

Yeah, fantastic. After the Lake District, where did he head, obviously? Is that when you went down to Chester?

[00:22:42.780] - Wendie Hume

Yes. So he kind of went to Llandudno. I think that's how they said it. North Wales.

[00:22:50.320] - Tracy Collins

Okay. I probably won't be up. I'm English. I probably won't be able to pronounce it either.

[00:22:55.350] - Wendie Hume

So north Wales. Yeah, which was amazing because they even though it was a week before their Guy Fawkes Night because of their tides and everything, they had their fireworks night that night.

[00:23:07.470] - Tracy Collins

Oh, cool.

[00:23:08.400] - Wendie Hume

That was amazing. There must have been tens of thousand people there all down on the beach, so we couldn't get dinner anywhere that night. So our guest house that we stayed, or boutique hotel, I think they called it there, which was right on the beach. We just sat and had fish and chips on the beach with everybody else.

[00:23:24.960] - Tracy Collins

Was that Llandudno.

[00:23:26.160] - Wendie Hume

Yeah. They don't pronounce it like that.

[00:23:30.520] - Tracy Collins

Llandudno, I can never pronounce it.

[00:23:31.990] - Tracy Collins

Right.

[00:23:32.380] - Tracy Collins

Llandudno

[00:23:32.780] - Tracy Collins

No?

[00:23:33.650] - Wendie Hume

Yeah, something like that.

[00:23:35.190] - Wendie Hume

I just say North Wales, I know.

[00:23:37.610] - Wendie Hume

Where you had that was really nice. And the pier that just goes forever. Like this really long pier in the beautiful beachfront. And then we went to Conway Castle. We did the hop on, hop off bus there, which was really good. So we just parked up when we got places, we just parked at the hotel. And then we just got buses. And then we went over to Conway or Conway, however they pronounced. We did the Castle and did the town walls. And that's a really interesting little place as well. And the castle was amazing.

[00:24:09.900] - Tracy Collins

That's good. So you've been seeing you saw quite a few castles when you were over there, then.

[00:24:13.520] - Wendie Hume

We did. We saw as many as we didn't see. The more missed some that we would have liked to have seen, but like anything you couldn't see at all. But we think we wanted there's so many.

[00:24:22.290] - Tracy Collins

I mean, in Northumberland, it's got more than any other county. I don't even know how many Northumberlands got, but it's a lot.

[00:24:28.630] - Wendie Hume

So then we headed down to Cardiff. Cardiff was amazing, but we didn't give it the time it needed. Right. It was a one night stop for us. We should have used that night somewhere else. Not because we didn't like Cardiff, but we did not give Cardiff the time because we stopped at Chester. We didn't get there until 02:00. We rushed to see the castle. We rushed to do a river, I think it was a river, the boat ride down the river to see the other end of Cardiff and had dinner and then we left in the morning. So, unfortunately, we didn't give Cardiff the justice it deserved.

[00:25:05.790] - Tracy Collins

Yeah.

[00:25:07.730] - Wendie Hume

Which is a shame, because it looked like a pretty place.

[00:25:10.550] - Tracy Collins

Yeah, it is. But that's sometimes, I think. But you stopped off and enjoyed Chester.

[00:25:18.630] - Wendie Hume

No regrets. No regrets. But just thinking that would be the only thing of our whole itinerary if I had the exact same option, that I would just change.

[00:25:28.620] - Tracy Collins

Move that out. Yeah.

[00:25:29.610] - Tracy Collins

So when did you go after Cardiff?

[00:25:31.380] - Wendie Hume

To Bath?

[00:25:32.350] - Tracy Collins

Yeah.

[00:25:35.050] - Wendie Hume

That was amazing. Everything was amazing. Loved Bath. Bath was really good. Loved the Roman Baths. My tip would be there on a Sunday, Monday. Don't go there on Sunday, go there Monday, because it was really busy and we walked past it Monday and there was no lines.

[00:25:54.580] - Tracy Collins

Yeah. And was that the school holidays as well? I think that it was. It would have been even busier. Yeah, because it's nice to go when it's a bit quieter. Actually, Doug and I went in July. End of June. Beginning of July. It wasn't too bad, but we booked and we knew what time we're going in because it can get busy because it's a great place to wander.

[00:26:18.710] - Wendie Hume

And don't go thinking you're only going to be there for an hour. To really enjoy it, you need to take your time and really enjoy it. And we did. We really enjoyed it. And had a champagne by the baths.

[00:26:30.050] - Tracy Collins

Lovely.

[00:26:30.690] - Wendie Hume

Yeah. Really did the nice romantic thing and did all the touristy thing and then we did the Bath Abbey and climbed up the bell tower. That's something that everyone should do if they go there. The views from there are amazing. And just the story and the history of it. Did a hopCotswolds on hop off bus tour there as well and went to the outskirts. Didn't get off anywhere, just had a look around, but just because we tossed up from there, whether we were going to go and do a day trip to the Cotswolds or if we were going to go down to Stonehenge, but we did neither. Okay, we did neither. And we just enjoyed Bath. Wandered round bath and. Really enjoyed it. And then we went to Cornwall.

[00:27:16.670] - Tracy Collins
Yeah.

[00:27:17.100] - Wendie Hume
So little old Wendy from Australia thought Cornwall was just a city like everywhere else we went. So, lo and behold, she was a bit shocked. We were a bit shocked when we saw how big Cornwall was. And it wasn't a city.

[00:27:31.280] - Tracy Collins
Yeah.

[00:27:32.690] - Wendie Hume
And we weren't prepared for that. Right, so back to the UK Travel planning website and Facebook page, and what do we see in Cornwall? And we got on to I can't remember their name. Meneage? That's it. Yeah. Meneage Tours. And said, can you please fit us in? Because we got so much to see and no time to do it. And that tour was phenomenal. Absolutely phenomenal. Worth every single cent.

[00:28:03.210] - Tracy Collins
That's brilliant.

[00:28:03.860] - Wendie Hume
And we had the worst weather that day. That was when we got the bad weather. We had the worst wind and rain and our guide was amazing. Took us everywhere and it was really good. Had a great day, went to the oldest pub that was like 600 years old or something, for a lunch, had a Cornish pasty and went to Lands End and went to all these little places that we would never have known. Would never have known, yeah.

[00:28:30.840] - Tracy Collins
Oh, that's brilliant. Doug, that owns Meneage Tours, he listens to the podcast, too. He will appreciate that.

[00:28:38.150] - Wendie Hume
They were amazing. I can't remember what our tour I had to go through. I can remember what our tour guide but he was loved. Amazing. Absolutely amazing. Great tour. And they fitted us in, as I said, I think we rang him the day before.

[00:28:49.900] - Tracy Collins
Oh, that's great.

[00:28:51.530] - Wendie Hume
And they fitted us in, so that was really, really good. And would recommend him to anybody going to Cornwall.

[00:28:57.750] - Wendie Hume
And if we were there for longer.

[00:28:59.200] - Wendie Hume
I would have done two or three of these tours. But they were amazing.

[00:29:01.900] - Tracy Collins

And you know what the nice thing is as well? That if you do those, it's the same in the Cotswolds with Victoria. And we said to people, it was like, then you can sit back and enjoy it because someone else is doing the driving around those little lanes. They take it to all the places they know, the quickest ways to get there, the best ways to get there, so you can sit back and actually enjoy the scenery rather than having to kind of do the driving at that point. So it's nice sometimes to do that.

[00:29:24.240] - Wendie Hume

So the driver wanted to take us on the narrowest road he could find because he said he wanted to shock us. And I think he did that just instant. Eyes itself was pretty crazy.

[00:29:32.310] - Tracy Collins

Oh, yeah, absolutely.

[00:29:34.020] - Wendie Hume

And we stayed at the Castle, which you on your site recommend on your places of stay, and we picked it up from your site. So the Tregenna Castle. Fabulous.

[00:29:46.560] - Tracy Collins

Brilliant.

[00:29:47.390] - Wendie Hume

Yeah, it was fabulous. One of the barmen was from Brisbane in Australia, so we held up with him, but no, it was an amazing place. Like the gardens, walking down to the St. Ives. I'd like to go there and just stay there and not leave, just spend some time in the premises. But it was old, it was a castle. It was old, but absolutely top notch.

[00:30:12.520] - Tracy Collins

Oh, brilliant.

[00:30:13.590] - Wendie Hume

Yeah, it was really good.

[00:30:14.820] - Tracy Collins

Really good.

[00:30:15.320] - Wendie Hume

So there from St Ives. This was another umming and arring place that we were like, will we or won't we? Are we going to go there? Are we not going to go there? And that was Salisbury because we wanted to fit in Stonehenge because we didn't get there from Bath, so we thought we'll stop. It was kind of like halfway between St Ives and Southampton. So we stopped at Salisbury and that was another oh my gosh place. Like, we knew nothing about Salisbury. We hadn't really looked it up or anything. We just knew it was close to Stonehenge. And we did Stonehenge in the afternoon. And then we didn't know about this beautiful because we went to cathedrals were our thing. Cathedrals and castles.

[00:31:00.040] - Tracy Collins

Cathedral.

[00:31:02.130] - Wendie Hume

The cathedral was amazing. We wanted to climb the bell tower there, too, but they were booked out that day, so we couldn't climb that one either. And then we went to I can't remember what it was called. There was like a fort outside the town.

[00:31:17.110] - Tracy Collins

Old Sarum.

[00:31:18.450] - Wendie Hume

Yes. And it just going up to the Fort summed up my whole opinion of England. So when I got to England, I always knew that it's got a huge population, much bigger population than Australia. It's smaller than Australia. So I had no idea that there would be so much open space.

[00:31:39.360] - Tracy Collins

Oh, okay.

[00:31:40.460] - Wendie Hume

So I was really surprised at all the open space. And so I kept on saying to Daryl, it's like someone in the olden days, they went and drew a square and go build a city there they go and draw another square. And when we went up to Old Sarum and you look down over Salisbury, it exactly pictured what I was thinking. Everything's in a square. And once you walk out of that square, it's just land.

[00:32:05.670] - Tracy Collins

And a lot of the places are built where the Romans created the Romans that were there, and they built all the Saxons and all that before that. A lot of places like York or loads of places that you went that there would have been Roman, Romans were there thousands of years ago, thousand years ago when they invaded Britain. And it's always really interesting. I mean, I love seeing all the Roman ruins everywhere, or even in the cathedral at Salisbury.

[00:32:39.890] - Wendie Hume

What did they say, two rivers or something below? There's no rivers in sight. And there's the cathedral is built over a river. And I'm like, oh, yeah? How? And then they give you this stick and you put the stick down and it only goes down like a metre, and then you're hitting water. It was absolutely amazing. And to see the original page from the Domesday Book. Yeah, but that was amazing as well. We weren't expecting that. Salisbury was one of those little hidden bonuses that we weren't expecting. And then we ended up down at Southampton, ready for our cruise.

[00:33:16.050] - Tracy Collins

Yeah. And then you went on a cruise to America, didn't you?

[00:33:19.040] - Wendie Hume

We did, yes.

[00:33:20.180] - Tracy Collins

That was cool. And then you flew back from America, back to Australia.

[00:33:23.590] - Wendie Hume

Yes, we did.

[00:33:24.560] - Tracy Collins

Okay, so how long were you we all together?

[00:33:26.610] - Wendie Hume

We were away just short of eight weeks. Seven and a half weeks.

[00:33:30.400] - Tracy Collins

Wow.

[00:33:31.890] - Tracy Collins

That's a good trip.

[00:33:33.370] - Wendie Hume

It was a very good trip.

[00:33:34.640] - Tracy Collins

You planning your next one?

[00:33:36.630] - Wendie Hume
Yes, to go away in September.

[00:33:40.780] - Tracy Collins
Oh, excellent.

[00:33:41.810] - Tracy Collins
Excellent.

[00:33:43.190] - Wendie Hume
Obviously, hopefully going back to the UK maybe next year or the year after. So that would be good. And I know you've doing the North Coast 500, which Doug and I did last year, was absolutely amazing.

[00:33:53.370] - Wendie Hume
Yeah.

[00:33:54.350] - Tracy Collins
So obviously you talked about it. Sounds like all the accommodation that you chose was really good. So that's fantastic. So I think the best way to do it is I'll get the names of the places that you stayed at and where, and then I can list those in the show notes. So anybody's been looking up the different places that you stayed, if you had to choose? Kind of the one. And I know you really liked all the places, but if you had to go and spend a month there, which one would you go to?

[00:34:18.610] - Wendie Hume
I love Tregenna Castle in St Ives, and I love the little guest house, if they were all good. The one at Fort William was really good. Yeah, you put me on the spot.

[00:34:31.490] - Tracy Collins
No, I did.

[00:34:34.230] - Wendie Hume
The one at Lake Windermere. Windermere was really good, too.

[00:34:37.780] - Tracy Collins
Yeah. Okay.

[00:34:39.350] - Tracy Collins
That's right.

[00:34:40.150] - Wendie Hume
Yeah, that's three. Well, all of them sounded really good that you chose.

[00:34:44.330] - Wendie Hume
Actually, there was only one that we wouldn't recommend, and we didn't. And it wasn't the hotel, it wasn't this company, it wasn't the people. It was purely the age of the building.

[00:34:56.560] - Tracy Collins
Okay.

[00:34:57.630] - Wendie Hume
We could hear the person in the next room snoring. And it was just the building. It was nothing else. It was just the age of the building.

[00:35:05.600] - Tracy Collins
Okay.

[00:35:06.040] - Wendie Hume
And you have to accept that.

[00:35:07.320] - Tracy Collins
Yeah, exactly. So I'm going to ask you a few questions, things that come up in the group. So did you find because you were driving, did you find that you needed because we found when we were in places that we needed some cash for parking. So how did you get on? Did you take cash? Did you use card? How did you get on with that?

[00:35:23.060] - Wendie Hume
We actually didn't find that because I was prepared for that. No, we didn't take we had a little bit of cash, so we probably took about \$200 out when we first got there, and we hardly use cash. Card was accepted everywhere, even for parking. I've got a ComBank, which I've had for years. Every time I go overseas, I've got a combined travel card, which I can just hook up to my account, and I can just transfer money. There's no fees, so if I need to get cash out, I put that in an ATM or I use my credit card, which has got no international fees.

[00:36:01.930] - Tracy Collins
Okay, so that's good. So how did you find the driving? Or did Daryl do all the driving?

[00:36:09.090] - Wendie Hume
Darryl did all the driving.

[00:36:12.390] - Tracy Collins
Yeah.

[00:36:12.860] - Wendie Hume
No, Darryl did all the driving, so I didn't even get in there, not once.

[00:36:16.810] - Tracy Collins
And how did he find it? Was he okay with that? I know he enjoys driving, so I guess it was fine

[00:36:20.720] - Wendie Hume
Yeah, he was fine. He was fine with it. It wasn't as bad as what people like. It was what stories we'd heard. Yes, the roads are narrow. The roads are narrow, but we went from town to town. So we were on the motorway and we were on the main roads. We did find when we went out looking for Hume Castle, and we went out in the hills, the roads very narrow. But it was fine. It was an adventure.

[00:36:45.450] - Tracy Collins
Yeah. Okay, so that's good. What about things? Because obviously you were in the UK in October, so how did you find.

[00:36:55.810] - Tracy Collins
The weather and packing?

[00:36:56.770] - Tracy Collins
What did you just take? Kind of layers and stuff? Was it warm, cold? Obviously we used to warmer weather in Australia than generally the UK, but how do you find that?

[00:37:06.390] - Wendie Hume
I'm a cold frog. Yeah. So I feel the cold, but it wasn't as cold as I thought it was going to be. Okay, so we took way too much okay, we took way too much stuff. The first week in London, we got those Katmandu puffer jackets, the down ones, and we had the vest as well. So we just found while we're in London, we just had the vest and like, a lightweight skinny underneath it. And we were fine for that week. When we were in Cornwall, it was absolutely damn freezing and we were layered up then. And in Scotland it was a bit cold.

[00:37:46.310] - Tracy Collins
Yeah. The further north you go.

[00:37:49.040] - Wendie Hume
But it wasn't unbearably cold, and I feel the cold. So, no, we took way too much clothes. We took jumpers and jumpers and scarves. And we did buy a neck warmer thing, and we did wear that a couple of times, but no, it was fine. We took way too much clothes. So my advice next time, I'm going to halve what I take.

[00:38:09.610] - Tracy Collins
I tried to do that every time before I went because we were there May, June, July and August, and so I needed some kind of spring things. In the summer, I took very little and I still took too much. There were still three or four outfits I didn't even wear. So I think it's that it's trying to be like especially if you just want to have what you've got, and half it, half it just keep taking it down to like because really, you don't need if you're wearing jeans or leggings or whatever, you don't need a huge amount of really don't.

[00:38:39.580] - Wendie Hume
And we bought waterproof, hiking boots and they were the best thing we lived in them. Because when it does rain, we found when we were in London one morning, it rained when we were going to the Changing of the Guards. And when it rains, it really rains. It doesn't last for long, but it really rains, though, and you get really big puddles.

[00:39:00.720] - Tracy Collins
Yes, you do.

[00:39:01.770] - Wendie Hume
And we had those walking boots, hiking boots, waterproof ones, and they were a godsend.

[00:39:07.030] - Tracy Collins
Yeah, that's a good idea. Like comfortable waterproof shoes.

[00:39:10.040] - Wendie Hume
They were really comfortable.

[00:39:11.130] - Tracy Collins
Yeah, really good. So let's talk about food. You wanted a Sunday Roast, tell me the story about the Sunday roast. Wendy.

[00:39:19.320] - Wendie Hume
My gosh, that's all I wanted was a Sunday roast. So we got to London and we couldn't find a pub, but I guess that first Sunday, because we arrived on Friday, I guess that first Sunday, we weren't really looking for it. We did look for a pub that had Sunday roast, but we didn't find one, but that was fine, it wasn't a big deal. But then the second Sunday, I think we were in Edinburgh and we couldn't find one, but we had a Yorkshire pudding instead. Yeah, well, it's good then we were in Newbiggin by the Sea, and at this stage, this was our third Sunday, and I was hanging out for a Sunday roast and we were staying in a pub and I thought, for sure, let's get a Sunday roast. Looked on their website. Yes, they do a Sunday roast. Yes, between twelve and four only. What time we got there? 04:00, five to four. And they'd sold out.

[00:40:11.120] - Tracy Collins
Oh, no. Yeah, they don't do them all day. Most of the place you have to get often you have to book, actually.

[00:40:16.450] - Wendie Hume
I mean, that's what we found out in Bath. So the next Sunday we're in Bath and we're walking around

Bath to all the little pubs saying, oh, we want a Sunday roast. Have you booked? No. And we get to this one, and this guy must have taken pity on me because I said, I'm an Australian, I've only just got here, how do I know I have to book a week in advance? And he pity on me and said, Come back at 04:00 and I'll get to a Sunday roast. So we did get one.

[00:40:42.810] - Tracy Collins

That's brilliant. You'll have to tell me the name of that place. I'll give him a shout out for doing that.

[00:40:46.400] - Wendie Hume

Yeah, they were really good. He was really lovely. I mean, I was just going, I don't know about these things, I come from Australia.

[00:40:54.130] - Tracy Collins

The next thing I was going to ask you was anything that surprised you about the UK but you kind of.

[00:40:57.880] - Wendie Hume

Already said that you were open space and the friendliness of people. People were so friendly.

[00:41:04.710] - Tracy Collins

Yeah, that's good.

[00:41:06.100] - Wendie Hume

People were so friendly. Like, even we were on the train going from York to Edinburgh and there was these two girls sitting behind us and they had quite a strong accents and they were quite loud and they were having a girls weekend away, and then all of a sudden they start you couldn't help but hear their conversation. And then one of the girls said to him, oh, what do you think of Australians? And the other girl said, they're really loud and obnoxious. No, I turned around and said, oh, really? And this poor girl was mortified that she wanted to buy me drinks on the train, where I was just, like, making fun of it, saying, we can be loud, it can be obnoxious, but it made for such a good talking point and such a really nice friendship from it, just because I turned around and said, really?

[00:41:59.030] - Tracy Collins

In the Australian accent, what are you talking about?

[00:42:02.630] - Wendie Hume

She was so mortified that she couldn't apologise enough, but it made her, like, a really good friendship for the rest of the train trip, having a really good conversation on why they were going to Edinburgh and what they were doing and yeah, but it was just one of those funny moments.

[00:42:16.580] - Tracy Collins

Oh, no, that sounds really good. It's always nice on trains, I think, you know, more often than not, we end up talking to people on the trains and you find out where they're going and where they've been and what. It's always really and it's really relaxing when you're on the train as well.

[00:42:30.030] - Wendie Hume

The trains were really we were really impressed with the trains.

[00:42:33.830] - Tracy Collins

That's good. That's good. You didn't get caught out with any of the strikes because obviously there's been strikes since last June.

[00:42:40.850] - Wendie Hume

No, we missed them every time by a day.

[00:42:43.250] - Wendie Hume

Oh, you're like two when we were.

[00:42:45.190] - Wendie Hume
There and we missed them both by a day.

[00:42:47.570] - Tracy Collins
Oh, that's good.

[00:42:48.380] - Wendie Hume
We were a bit worried when we got off at Heathrow whether to catch the train to our hotel or not, and that was around about when the strikes were. So we just emailed the hotel and they organised a transfer for us. So that worked out really well for us.

[00:43:02.200] - Tracy Collins
Well, that's good. So is there anything that if you were going to do the trip again, you would do differently? I know you said you'd probably just miss that card because you didn't have the time there.

[00:43:13.360] - Wendie Hume
Yeah, everything was perfect. Our trip was perfect. There was nothing to complain about.

[00:43:20.860] - Tracy Collins
That's brilliant.

[00:43:22.280] - Wendie Hume
Yeah, it was really good.

[00:43:24.050] - Tracy Collins
And so I'm going to say thanks so much, Wendy, for coming up the podcast. It was really good and it was so lovely because obviously we did the Itinerary consult with you and followed your trip.

[00:43:31.530] - Wendie Hume
That was amazing. The Itinerary consult, that was just talking to you and Doug and all those midnight messages when I was messaging. You must have been so sick of me. No, I was fine. You guys absolutely helped us so much.

[00:43:46.870] - Tracy Collins
And I prefer that you ask me the questions, then I can help you. Then you sit and think, what what do do do I I do what to do? Because I can probably answer it or do I can answer it pretty quickly and solve the problem rather than you thinking about it for a while. So it was absolutely fine. And we were just so happy that you had such a good trip.

[00:44:02.210] - Wendie Hume
We did, because I was really overwhelmed. I was getting really overwhelmed with it. Just like, the more you research, the more you want to see. And that's when we just had to sit back and say, hey, you can't see it all. Be happy with what you do. And then we made a pact. Money exchange rate was so bad when we were there.

[00:44:21.760] - Wendie Hume
So we said to each other, we bought the Passes, we bought the London Pass, we bought the York Pass, we bought the Edinburgh Pass, we did the hop on hop off buses and we kind of just said to each other what's not included in them, we just won't do. We'll go and look at it, but we don't have to do everything and we don't feel like we missed anything.

[00:44:40.970] - Tracy Collins
No, I don't think you did. I think you did such a lot. You really did. So I always end the podcast with the same question. What is the one tip, Wendy, that you would give to anyone planning a trip to the UK for the first time?

[00:44:53.970] - Wendie Hume

Don't be overwhelmed. Especially London. Especially going to London. I was so focused on being in the best spot. Like, what's the best spot? Everyone said this was the best spot. Just don't even worry about that because no matter where you stay, the Tube is right there and the Tube is so easy and everything is easy to get to.

[00:45:15.800] - Tracy Collins

We better kind of sign off, but it's really good talking to you. So thanks so much, Wendy, for coming on.

[00:45:21.510] - Wendie Hume

Yeah, no worries. And thank and big shout out to you guys. We couldn't have done it without you guys. You really made our trip. Really, it was flawless. We didn't even have any hiccups and I think it was because of you guys.

[00:45:34.970] - Tracy Collins

Seriously. That's so lovely. Thank you so much, Wendy. We were both dog and I really appreciate that. We really did.

[00:45:41.020] - Wendie Hume

No, we appreciate your help and we couldn't have done it without you. Thank you.

[00:45:45.390] - Tracy Collins

Thanks so much. Again I'd like to say a huge.

[00:45:48.340] - Tracy Collins

Thank you to Wendy for coming onto the podcast to share her trip. Details of the places Wendy mentioned, plus the accommodation they stayed at during the trip can be found in this week's episode show notes [@uktravelplanner.com/episode32](https://uktravelplanner.com/episode32).

[00:46:04.740] - Tracy Collins

Remember, if you're feeling overwhelmed planning your trip. You can find details of our popular Itinerary review service also in the show notes.

[00:46:12.670] - Tracy Collins

Lastly, I want to give a huge shout out or and thanks for all the amazing podcast reviews we have been receiving. For example, from Robin's Nest in the US, he said this is a magnificent resource on many platforms. Tracy has put together an amazing resource package for travelling the UK. I love this podcast. I listen to them multiple times as I drive through my day. Not only are they informative, they are entertaining. We were making our first trip over to England this year and I feel so prepared. This is going to be so much fun. Thank you so much, Robin. It just was so lovely reading that and everyone else who's left us a rating and or review.

[00:46:52.580] - Tracy Collins

We really, really appreciate it. I will be reading out more in.

[00:46:56.630] - Tracy Collins

Upcoming podcast episodes, so listen out and you may get a shout out just like Robin.

[00:47:01.470] - Tracy Collins

Again, thanks for listening and until next week's episode, happy UK Travel Planning.