

EPISODE 82 - TRANSCRIPT

(Note that this is AI generated so please excuse any errors)

Intro [00:00:03]:

Welcome to the UK travel planning podcast. Your host is the founder of the UK travel planning website, Tracey Collins. In this podcast, Tracey 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.

Tracy Collins [00:00:42]:

Welcome to episode 82 of the UK travel planning podcast. It's lovely to have you here. I'm actually recording this podcast from a damp and rainy UK. I'm very excited with this episode to have a fellow Aussie on the podcast. So we have Tanya, who has recently returned from a 35 day trip To the UK and the Republic of Ireland and Singapore on the way back. Tanya has agreed to come on to the podcast today and tell us all about her trip. So, Tanya, would you like to introduce yourself? Tell us who you went with on the trip and whereabouts you're from.

Tanya [00:01:14]:

Okay. So as Tracy just said, my name's Tanya, And I'm married to John. So John and I went on the trip. We come from sunny Brisbane, Australia, so not too far from where Tracy's from. And, so, yeah, I travel with John to the UK. We have adult kids, and we're just a tiny bit over 50, and we love traveling.

Tracy Collins [00:01:33]:

Oh, that's brilliant. I know. And, I know we've we've known each other as well for quite a few years. Haven't we 10 years? So it was it was brilliant when you, started planning this trip that you joined Facebook group and and, started looking at at all our resources and everything, but we'll talk about that in a bit. But do you wanna give us a brief overview of where you went? Yeah.

Tanya [00:01:51]:

Sure. So the trip was about five and a half weeks long, although we lost a couple of days flying because obviously coming from Australia, it's a long way, then you do lose days. So we flew into London, but for we didn't stay in London. We went straight to Bath. So we did some traveling around that sort of southern part of England, Then we caught up a plane across to Dublin, and we actually took a bus tour around Northern Ireland and Ireland, which was fabulous. And then we jumped on a plane again, flew to Edinburgh, had a couple of days in Edinburgh, and then again hired a car like we had in the south of England. And we did a road trip around the Scottish Highlands. Once we'd finished there, we finished at Inverness and called a train down to York for a couple of days And then to London for 6 nights, and then we chuffed off to Singapore on the way home.

Tanya [00:02:36]:

So that's a trip in a nutshell. Obviously, there's way more detail.

Tracy Collins [00:02:39]:
Oh, yes. Yeah.

Tanya [00:02:40]:
Look at that. Okay.

Tracy Collins [00:02:42]:
So how did you choose? Because I know one of the biggest things that people say when they're choosing the destinations that they wanna to go to in the UK because it can be overwhelming because there's so many places to visit. So how did you choose the actual destinations to include in your itinerary?

Tanya [00:02:57]:
Yeah. We've actually found that quite difficult. Originally, we were going to just go for 3 weeks, and we thought we'd do, you know, a week in London, a bit of England, a bit of Wales, a little bit of Scotland. But as we got to know more about each of the places, we're like, oh, hang on a minute. We need to go here, there, and everywhere. And I guess we got to know about the places largely initially through your Facebook page, just following things on there and particularly seeing other people's itineraries. I mean, obviously, the big Ticket London, Edinburgh, Dublin, they were on there, but some of them were regional and smaller places and like, we've not heard of them. And I look at our trip now, and I think probably, Oh, 2 thirds of the places we went 12 months ago, I hadn't even actually heard of some of those places, or I might have heard of them, but I didn't know what they had to offer.

Tanya [00:03:41]:
So that was largely through the Facebook group initially that I kind of heard of these places, and then from that we did further research using your products and sometimes other people's, as well, but largely yours. So yeah.

Tracy Collins [00:03:55]:
Yeah. Yeah. So you find the websites helpful?

Tanya [00:03:57]:
Oh, yeah. Absolutely. So once we've noted down, you know, we wanted to go to this like Bath or Cornwall or Isle of Skye. We'd sort of we'd taken what we could from the Facebook page, but then I'd actually go to your website and have a look on what articles you'd written about, those sorts of things. Also with the itinerary, we used the website like, quite early on to look at I think you had some suggested itineraries there. So you probably noticed a lot of places we went to are on your train itinerary because when we first started out, That was probably what we were going to do, the train itinerary, but then as time went on and saw about people hiring cars and whatnot, we kind of changed it a bit. We probably actually started out doing a lot of that train itinerary, and we swapped out Wales. So we didn't go to Wales at all, unfortunately, and it really was just a time factor.

Tanya [00:04:42]:

It was because I just loved so much about Cornwall, and I really want to go to Cornwall and particularly, St Michael's Mount. I just wanted to do this. And it's it's a reasonable drive down there

Tracy Collins [00:04:53]:
for the

Tanya [00:04:54]:
flight we're in. And so something had to give, so we had to make that Choice since we crossed out Wales to do Cornwall.

Tracy Collins [00:05:00]:
And I think that happens. It doesn't matter how long you're going for. There's always something that you're gonna have to kinda You have to drop. It's very difficult to to think. I know even just when you sit and start thinking out, you know, we're over there. We're gonna be over there for 6 weeks in November, December, And I've I've just come back for 3 months. It even feel my itinerary. I'm like, oh, it's gonna have to be here or it's gonna be there because I'm not gonna be able to fit All in.

Tracy Collins [00:05:23]:
No.

Tanya [00:05:24]:
You can't.

Tracy Collins [00:05:25]:
So, obviously, you said you you obviously use the Facebook group, and you find the website's really helpful. So that's brilliant to know. So that's great because that's That's what we

Tanya [00:05:31]:
we aim to do. And, obviously,

Tracy Collins [00:05:33]:
I know you you you were just talking to me before we start the podcast, but you listen to the podcast as well and found those really helpful. So So should we talk a little bit in more detail about your itinerary?

Tanya [00:05:43]:
Yeah. Sure. So we got to London, and I think I got this advice from you on another A few years ago, actually, or maybe someone else. But, you know, sometimes don't start with the big city. Do you say that? Yeah. Maybe someone's smaller. So we did that a few years back with Italy, and we Kinda love that because, you know, you're quite tired and jet lagged in that when you first get there and dealing and and look, I've been to London before and dealing with London when you've just had this massive Big, long trip is really quite challenging. So we had decided to go from London straight to Bath.

Tanya [00:06:11]:

So we got into Heathrow, and we're going to catch a train to Bath. Well, train strike the day we arrive. I know. What's the chances? But, anyway, train train strikes did cause us a bit of grief. So I think I got in contact with Doug going, so both you and Doug have been so helpful. So we decided you know, he talked about either a private driver or or a bus. And the private driver was probably a bit too expensive for us, so we chose the bus option. And look, the bus worked out really well.

Tanya [00:06:39]:

The only issue was the buses don't go that often like a train does. So I think when we got Heathrow, we had to wait 3 hours for the bus. And then, and and then the bus is longer, You know, the travel time is longer than the crane too. Yeah. So door to door from our home to our accommodation bath was 33 hours. Whereas you you know, the flight's about 24 to London. So if we'd stayed in London, it might have been about 25. So that that was an absolute killer.

Tanya [00:07:06]:

And in hindsight, I think maybe we should have changed our playing around and stayed in London, because I was quite sick too. I was a little bit sick before we left. I got quite sick on the plane. So by the time I got to Bath, I was cactus. But anyway, We got to Bath. We had a few days in Bath. Another piece of advice I've picked up along the way from, you know, travel planners, I'm not sure if this was you or someone else, a few years Was you know, try not to make your 1st day totally packed and crazy when you're coming off a big 30 hour travel experience. So I often do, like, a small group bus tour or something like that on the cruise line.

Tracy Collins [00:07:39]:

Yep.

Tanya [00:07:40]:

Because that way, you don't have to think about it. And I don't generally like big bus tours, but small ones I find quite manageable. So, yeah, we did Mad Max tours, it was called. So they're just a small bus, And that was really fabulous because that took us to Stonehenge. And, and that was interesting itself because Stonehenge is one of those things I thought, if I'm in the vicinity, I probably should do it. But I wasn't jumping out of my skin to do it, but it was fabulous. And I really we both really enjoyed it.

Tracy Collins [00:08:06]:

I'm so glad that you say that because quite often, we get a lot of British people who say, oh, don't bother going to Stonehenge. They're just alone. Yeah. Yeah. And I said to be honest, I get a little bit cross. I might excuse me. You know, a long, long, long time ago before you were born, somebody was making Stones from Wales all the way to Salisbury. You know, maybe we should have a little bit of kinda I don't know.

Tanya [00:08:31]:

Yeah. I've I've seen a lot of those big beat ups on Stonehenge, and it wasn't I was like, oh, well, this stone's booked off. But it was actually they're so much bigger than I thought, wasn't it? Just so much more impressive than I thought and the stories behind it and the kind of mystery about, well, what's all this about? Like, you know? I I really found it quite fascinating.

So yeah. So with that that day bus trip went from Stonehenge to Avebury, which I really loved that And not just the Stones, but just the little village and everything about that. I really love that. So that was good. And then I went to sorry.

Tracy Collins [00:09:05]:

And so I was just gonna say, an Avebury is really I love Avebury as well, and because you can walk up to the stones, you can touch us the stones in

Tanya [00:09:11]:

Avebury. Definitely.

Tracy Collins [00:09:13]:

Yeah. So it's a it's a kind of different experience from Stonehenge, but the advantage of the fact that you took that that tour is that because otherwise, you do need really a car or you're gonna have to get Do a tour to be able to go Stonehenge, you can get to by train from that. If you wanna do if we had to do the tour or the or, or have a car.

Tanya [00:09:30]:

Yeah. And, look, we would have been, too tired that 1st day to be navigating transport and that sort of stuff. And so then just then just, you know, briefly then after Avery went to 2 of the lower Cots 12 Villages, Castlecom and, or one of the other ones. It's the, the Dunner. Yeah. Lake Hop. Yeah. That's right.

Tanya [00:09:48]:

We're here. Yes. It was. Yeah. So that was that was a really good day. So yeah. Then the next day in Bath, we just, you know, did our own things to hit most of the Main tourist attractions. I think that day, it was my Australian birthday.

Tanya [00:10:01]:

So later in the day it wasn't yet in England. The time hadn't flipped over, so we went Sue, the pump room, slide in the afternoon for Yeah. Afternoon tea, and that was fabulous. But we'd done all the, you know, the what do you call it? Bath Abbey and that sort of stuff first. So that was really good. So, yeah, we had a couple of days in Bath, and we really loved Bath, loved the architecture, loved that it was a bit smaller, loved that we could get around on our own. So then from Bath, we picked up a car and we drove down to Cornwall. So we went from Bath to Saint Michael's Mill Just in the one day, and we want to be here by 1:15 because of the tight times.

Tanya [00:10:34]:

So we knew we were going, but we got there, and we managed to get a boat across To the mountain walk back. And we actually decided to stay in that village, which some people put it put it on and some call it Merazian. But I don't know. Depends who you talk to. We stayed in that village and we stayed in Airbnb there, but it actually overlooked the mound. So it was kind of like almost a little artist studio or something like that that overlooked the mound. So it was fabulous because every time we're at home, we could see them out. So we kind of saw the sunrises just above there, I think, Cool.

Tanya [00:11:03]:

Sunset or something rather, anyway. So that was really fabulous. And, so then the next day, we, we were traveling around that So the southern bit of Cornwall in our car. So we had no issues driving down to, Merazion, but Driving around Cornwall, that was an interesting scene. And everyone had told us that, but, look, we probably did underestimate it a little bit. And so we had all these places that we thought we were going to see, but, look, the driving was much slower than what we expected. And but every other time, as you told me that, but it wasn't just the driving. It was the parking.

Tanya [00:11:39]:

And you had also said that. I remember you saying on one of your trips, you had to miss out on my side, totally. She couldn't get a park. And we just found the parking such a pain as far as but, you know, that's how it is. So we've, you know, gotta get on with it and not binge too much. But, You you know, like having to find a car park, pay for a car park, and often the car parks are they're not necessarily right in the middle of town. And I mean, they're not way out, but then, you know, so then it's a bit of a walk in. And we were kind of lucky that 1st week that the weather was, like, fabulous, But it was kind of round about 30 degrees Celsius and very humid.

Tanya [00:12:12]:

So it just says little walks when you're out, you know, you're outside town, you've got a walk in. They were quite taxing, so we ended up not seeing everything that we thought we'd see. But we ended up not going as far as Lands' End. I think that probably one of the reasons we didn't See, everything was we we went to St Ives, and we took your recommendation of going to St Ives station and catching the train. And we sat on the right Was it the right side of the train? Yeah. And the view is just spectacular. We got to say, nice. Well, I fell in love with it because I I love beaches, And, the beach there right near the train station is just beautiful.

Tanya [00:12:47]:

And, and it was a beautiful sunny day, and So we went down there and spent quite a lot of time at the beach. We saw the bathing boxes. You know, there's some colored little hearts there that people we had a chat to the lady that had you know, she had one of those, and, You know, she told us all about that. And so we spent ages at the beach, and I was disappointed I didn't bring my togs or swimmers, as other people would call yeah. We couldn't swim, but I hitched all my clothes up and went in the water. So we went there, and then we kinda walked into town. And I went to the fish and chip shop that you recommend in the middle there near the harbor. Yeah.

Tanya [00:13:17]:

And that was fabulous beef and chips and the best fish and chips we had the whole trip, actually. And, so we did that. So spent a heap of time in St Ives, so we ended up dropping off some of those places. They're a bit lower down in Cornwall. And also we knew that that night, we were going back To the Menac Theatre, which is something I'd highly recommend. So we actually saw a show. We saw a theater at Menac Theatre, and that was, Wonderful. So I'd highly recommend that people do that as long as you're okay with the driving, because the driving to get there is not for the fainthearted.

Tanya [00:13:48]:

And you gotta bear in mind, it's night driving as well. So you're on those skinny little roads Yeah. At nighttime. And I'd be driving down there if I was on. Oh, I didn't drive anyway. My husband did the whole lot of it because he loves driving. I I would I would I would have found it a bit scary to be on those small roads. And also, you know, like everyone talks about, we'd experience as you're driving down, and the next minute he's a truck coming towards you or A tractor and, you know, all of that sort of stuff.

Tanya [00:14:14]:

I'd read this about Scotland and England. You know, some of the the visitors and the tourists just not Knowing how to drive in those places. And we saw that a lot actually, particularly in Scotland where people didn't kinda know to pull over into the pull over bays, Well, they were going too fast for the row. Yeah. So after Cornwall, we went up to the Cotswolds, and it was just as picturesque as everybody tells you that it isn't. Oh, it probably surpassed my expectations. It was amazing. So we went to lots of the villages there.

Tanya [00:14:40]:

And one thing I did there that was probably different from Cornwall, You know, I sort of had a itinerary for the Cotswolds, but with each thing, I kind of put down what what would be a good thing to see in this village. And so that was kinda good because we'd get to, you know, SnowSeal, and it's like, well, I wanna see this, this, and this, so I'll get a photo of this. So that kind of helped. And also in the Cotswolds before we got there, with the parking, John would drive. I'd Google, You know, where to park in, wherever you were. And I've found that report because there are a few places where it was like, oh, you can park in the shopping center for free for 2 hours or, Oh, you can park on this road and it might be just a bit behind me. So I don't think we pay for parking at all there. And also we left very early that morning.

Tanya [00:15:21]:

So when we got to the Slaughters, for example. But there was no one out and about. It was like those 2 little villages were our villages. So I think that would tip To go early. Yeah.

Tracy Collins [00:15:30]:

That's really good. I either go early or go later on in the day.

Tanya [00:15:34]:

And, actually, the first day we got to the Cotswolds, we went to a couple of them late in the day, and that's Yeah.

Tracy Collins [00:15:39]:

That tends to be better because there are times that if you go in the middle of the day, a lot of the coaches are there trying to get parked. Some days can be really difficult. But if you go later on, I think Doug and I went to Byberry at about half past 7, one And Easy to park and walk around. It literally felt there was just us and another couple, which, you know and you go in the day, and you just can't get parked or or walk around.

Tanya [00:16:01]:

The one with Arlington Road? Yes. Yeah. So we went to Barbary late in the day too on the way to the Cotswolds, but probably only about 5:30. So I've got photos of, like, just me and John, not other people In the photos because there was nowhere much there. And but I've

seen other people's photos where there's 50 people in there because there's so many people near that Allington Road. Yes. So from the Clotswolds, which we had a fabulous time at, we then drove to Bristol Airport, caught a plane to Dublin. We did one day in Dublin.

Tanya [00:16:27]:

Look. I didn't mind Dublin, but it wasn't, like, rave worthy like some of the other places. Then we jumped on a bus too, and, look, we only did that because Dublin was a late addition. Ireland was a late addition, And we I just didn't feel I had it in me to meticulously plan all of Ireland as well as England and Scotland. So we're pretty dubious about the bus tour. We've never done one before, but we actually really loved I think we've really lucked out on the driver. He was a young guy. He was just hilarious and very informative in that too.

Tanya [00:16:53]:

And, also, I found the Irish people. I didn't know a lot about That was so funny, and they just had this really great sense of humor, sarcasm. Yeah. Not not unlike a lot of Australians. Yeah. Yeah. Felt so comfortable in Ireland, particular and we found the English people very polite and helpful and friendly, but the Irish People just did crack up. There were quite a lyrics.

Tanya [00:17:13]:

And so that bus trip went up into Northern Ireland Yep. Which again I found fascinating because I didn't know a whole heap about the travels, So that was good. And then round the coastline of Ireland pretty much. And Yeah. It was very scenic. And, yeah, I knew Ireland was Scenic, but probably not as scenic at least what it was. So yeah. So that's Ireland in a nutshell.

Tanya [00:17:32]:

And then we skip over to Edinburgh, Which, again, really loved Edinburgh. It did rain both days we're in Edinburgh. And, I mean, that's what the weather's like there, so you can't complain about it. But, You know, I'd seen actually, the day we left, it was bright blue skies. It's beautiful. I was like, oh, I wish I'd seen it in with the bright blue skies. But so we'll have to go back and try our luck. But Like I said, we got quite a dip to just raincoats on, raincoats off, that sort of thing.

Tanya [00:17:57]:

Dressing in layers as everyone said because the weather, particularly from Ireland, Oh, not odd. But a couple of days in Ireland, but particularly in Scotland, it was just so changeable and Oh, yeah. Running. So that's where the layers and always having your own come with you.

Tracy Collins [00:18:11]:

I'll I'll often say, last last year year past May, I was in Edinburgh, and we arrived on a Sunday, and it was beautiful blue sky, Hot. This is over the middle of May. I actually got sunburned, slightly sunburned. The next day, I'm covered head to foot in winter weather gear, raincoat, Ouch. My face peeking out because it was so cold, and it was pouring down the rain. And that that's between a space of, like, 12 hours. It was crazy.

Tanya [00:18:35]:

It is, isn't it? And I've I've heard people say that, but until I experienced it, I was like, oh, what? You know? So it was hard to know how to dress those some days because it was just It's like, oh, it's hot day today, but 2 hours later, it's freezing cold and you've got like I had, like, 2 Papa Chatbots on at one point. Oh, one of them was the best, but, you know, like, that's that was tricky, but we got used to it and that was fine. So yeah. So we did, you know, did the main went to Edinburgh. I saw most of the main tourist Objections. Then we hired a car and we sort of set out through Stirling into the Highlands. And again, we we loved that. Like, that was amazing.

Tanya [00:19:10]:

So good. Probably Fort William. We really like Fort William. We like the driving because you're driving just in between locks all the time, and there was all this water. And I Because it had been raining, it kinda added to the, just the mood and driving through that Glencoe area. If like, it was absolutely Raining, raining, and blowing a gale that day. And every few kilometers, I'd say to John, stop. I've just gotta get out and get a photo.

Tanya [00:19:33]:

So I'm in the pouring rain getting photos, but we love, Yeah. We love drive the drive. We love Fort William. The place we stayed at Fort William was magical.

Tracy Collins [00:19:41]:

Yeah. It's a fabulous, it's a fabulous drive. That is one probably one of my favorite in the world, to be honest. I could I could do that that kinda loop round. I don't know. I just in in it ad infinitum because it's so gorgeous.

Tanya [00:19:53]:

Oh, yeah. Like, it was Beautiful. And it was like, I could stop every 1 minute today. It was just stunning. And I took 5,000 photos out the windows of cars, which Probably 4 a half 1000 of them didn't work. So that would be a tip. Maybe don't waste your time doing that. But because it was just so beautiful.

Tanya [00:20:09]:

I wanted to capture it. So then after while we're in Fort William, we did the Jacobite train, which we loved. Unfortunately, on the way out, it was pouring rain, so you couldn't see a lot. But on the way back, it had found out, so that was really good. And we really enjoyed that experience, and it was kind of a down day. Down as in rest day for us. Yeah. Yes.

Tanya [00:20:27]:

Because we've been going a 100 to the dozen for, you know, a couple of weeks by then, so that's Yeah. Pretty good.

Tracy Collins [00:20:32]:

And then you went over to Sky.

Tanya [00:20:34]:

Yeah. And then we went Sky, and Sky's just as amazing as everyone said. We loved all that. And, you know, we did some of the walks. And and the best thing about Sky for us, the accommodation was actually Great. We stayed at the BNB, but, I think we're in Scotland for

9 days, and it rang quite a lot for 7 of them. There were 2 fine days, and one of them was our main day in Sky, Which was when we went to the old manna store and, like, that's what we had planned. So it just happened to coincide that we got this bright beautiful blue day on the day when we were going to be trying Do a lot of that outdoor, hiking stuff, so that was just so fabulous that it worked out like that.

Tanya [00:21:07]:

So, yeah, so few days in Sky, and then we headed back, You know, to the mainland, and, this bit was really interesting. My husband, our surname's Munro, so that's a Scottish plan. You know, so way back, he's got some connection to the Scottish plan, and they've got a castle. It's quite old, Fallis Castle. It's cool. And it had been rebuilt in the 1700 after been burnt down, so it's more like a stay at the home now. But it's still got the walls and the tower. And so I I sort of said to him, oh, we've gotta go there.

Tanya [00:21:38]:

And he wasn't super keen, but anyway and then I realized it was an Airbnb, so we actually got to stay there for a few days. And we met the people that live in the castle and, like, there's sort of 2 generations still there and, You know, we had a tool through that and just learned a lot of that clan history. And, like, we're probably not big into history, but, like, we were fascinated. You know? There's a I I think there's a Monrachlan gathering in 2 years' time, and my husband said, oh, we should go back for it. And so he go right into it. And really cool. So that was really cool actually doing that. And, yeah.

Tanya [00:22:09]:

So from there, we headed back to Inverness, called a train to York, which Loved York. Like, it's it's really compact, so it's easy to get around. And then to London, and we did 6 days in London. So what do

Tracy Collins [00:22:20]:

you do in London? So let's chat through London and Road.

Tanya [00:22:24]:

Well, in London, oh, we did a lot of the royal type stuff, so, you know, changing of the guard, Buckingham Palace. Oh, we couldn't go into it. It was shut now. I've I've been there before. Westminster Abbey, St Paul's Cathedral, a lot of that Sort of stuff. We did that. You've got a loop. You sort of talk about a bit, in that area near the Tower of London, the bridge, the Burrow Markets.

Tanya [00:22:46]:

Yeah. We love the Tower of London. I've been before, but I kinda probably liked it even better this time. And we'd learned about St Dunstan's in the east Probably from you and your side in the podcast or something. So we've gotten there quite early for the Tower of London because we knew, again, from your sites But if you go into Tower London, get there a bit earlier, you know, go in first, see the crown jewels first. But we got there about 45, 50 minutes early. So instead of doing St Dunstan's in the east after, we did it early, like, prior to the and, and that was really oh, it's just beautiful, Full, isn't it? Like, it's just like an oasis in the middle of such a busy bustling city. So we did that.

Tanya [00:23:23]:

Yeah. Oh, we did heaps of stuff there. We, we had tickets for the Sky Garden, but we had a couple of train strikes in that when we were in London and so one of the train starts as planned for the day. We're meant to go to Sky Garden, and we thought, oh, it's gonna be pretty tricky to get down there. And it was our last day. So we we approached them at Sky Garden the day before we were in that area and said, oh, you know, can we come in early? And they said no. So we ended up going up to, I think, it's 120 The Edge, which is another tall building that's got a sky garden, but nowhere near as tall. So we got a view from there.

Tanya [00:23:55]:

And then later that day, we went to Sir Paul's Cathedral as Part of that loop, and so we climbed the whole way to the top, which was really it was I was pretty proud of myself. And the other highlight we love theater, so going to the theater was a big highlight. We tried to see shows that we couldn't see here. Although, we did see Harry Potter, but and that's been in Australia for a couple of years. I just haven't been able to get to Melbourne to see it. But it's not Back in the Future, which has not been to Australia yet. I would highly, highly recommend that. It was so much fun.

Tanya [00:24:24]:

It was a great script, great songs, but it was a lot of fun too and some good special effects. So, you know, I'd say see Back to the Future if you're if you're there. And we stayed in Covent Garden, which we've taken that advice from you. And, staying in Covent Garden meant you just had such great access to theatres and that Sort of thing. Yeah.

Tracy Collins [00:24:42]:

You've talked a little bit about some of the accommodation options that you chose. So, obviously, you're still in some Airbnbs, some hotel. Yeah.

Tanya [00:24:48]:

So we stayed in a range of places. We stayed in hotels, which was nice because, you know, they make the beer for you and that sort of thing. And we stayed in a few Airbnbs, and we made sure, They always had washing machines, so that gave us a couple opportunities to wash wash, which was really great. And also we could heat up, some food because you you do get a little bit sick of eating out every single meal. And interestingly, I know you've spoken about some supermarkets before, but we found particularly in Scotland, we went to Aldi. And the meals at Aldi were amazing. They were so fresh and just really yummy meals. So we loved that they had that.

Tanya [00:25:21]:

They weren't frozen. They were but they were pre prepared. And I wish they did that here because I probably wouldn't need to cook.

Tracy Collins [00:25:29]:

I'll be down there as well doing exactly the same.

Tanya [00:25:32]:

That's alright. So that was quite good. And we we stayed in some bed and breakfast too. Look. The bit the B and Bs, they were probably our favorite in that they were so lovely and

great breakfast. And So there was a B&B in, Borton on the water that we stayed at called Halford House, which I'd highly recommend, and one up in Portree called Rockview. Again, I'd highly recommend it. Oh, and then the one in, Myrtles Guest House, which I know is from your you've got that as one of your recommendations.

Tanya [00:25:59]:

Yeah. Oh, Fort William. That that was amazing there too.

Tracy Collins [00:26:04]:

Absolutely.

Tanya [00:26:05]:

She's also got an Airbnb at the back, of the guest house, a couple of them that are Double storey apartments which are just stunning because we ended up staying in 1 because we, there was a water overflow problem with the toilet, where we're staying, Dang, which is fine and she sorted out, but and and we helped her a bit with that. So she said I wanna put you up in these other accommodations. So that would be something to look out for because they were beautiful. Tanya. We felt really pampered there.

Tracy Collins [00:26:32]:

Well, I'll get the names off you, and I'll put links into those in the show notes as well. So tell me about some of the food that you enjoyed in the UK then, Tanya.

Tanya [00:26:39]:

Well, Well, one thing I absolutely loved, and it's a bit embarrassing to say, but it's this. I love the Yorkie bar in England. So that's chocolate bar, and it's quite sweet, and I really love them. So, I bought a few of those home with me. Although I've Googled, I think you can find them a bit in Australia, so we'll see. And I shouldn't have too many of them anyway, so maybe I'll wait till I go back to England. But look, we loved, the Sunday roasts. Like, they were fabulous with the Yorkshire pudding.

Tanya [00:27:05]:

And, I mean, probably depending on the pub, the they're always good, but the quality did, maybe, you know, it's different depending on the pub. Went to the lamb and fig in Covent Garden, which is, I think, quite a bit an old pub, and it was fabulous there. In Edinburgh, we went to a place called Queen's Cafe, which had a Scottish breakfast, which which was just amazing. And we surprised ourself in Scotland. My husband had said he wasn't even tasting haggis, But he did. And we actually both really like haggis. And we went to the Maker's Mash Bar too that you'd recommended, but and Yeah. Had the haggis there, but, of course, they have other stuff with it there, which is great, and we really enjoyed it.

Tanya [00:27:43]:

But, but we also had just straight up haggis without all the additional flavorings in it. We liked it. Didn't go into the blood sausage sausage though. And we love the scones. Like, who doesn't love scones? So Yeah. We, every opportunity we got, we had scones, and we had a couple of armatees. So and, the clotted cream, I've actually looked up a recipe of how do you do it's clotted cream? Because we don't have that, when when you go to get swans here. So, I've looked at it now to make my own.

Tracy Collins [00:28:09]:

Oh, that's good. That's good. Yeah. I don't know. I just I'm just so used to having it when I'm over there. I don't I don't think anything of it. And then I think in, like, in North America, they They're not allowed to have it. I think it's

Tanya [00:28:18]:

Oh, I'm banned. Oh. I think

Tracy Collins [00:28:19]:

it's banned. Yeah. It's banned in the oven this morning.

Tanya [00:28:21]:

Because when I looked it up, it's like, It looks like you baked the cream at a really low temperature in the oven for quite a few hours, so I wonder if that's good. So maybe I don't know. I don't know. Anyway, I'll give it a try. How about your ad one day, Tracy? You can go and clotted cream with me on the Sounds good.

Tracy Collins [00:28:38]:

That sounds good, Tanya. So packing. Obviously, you're packing for for 5 weeks. So how did you get on with that? Is there anything you think, oh, I shouldn't have taken with me, or is there something you thought I wish I'd had taken?

Tanya [00:28:49]:

Look. We had way too much stuff as everyone says because our bags were quite heavy. And also I didn't have room for souvenirs, which really irked me, but I knew that before I left. And look. I've thrown in because I've been watching the weather as you suggest leading up to the trip, I knew that it was quite hot down south of England, so I've thrown in a couple of extra summer outfits. Yeah. Look, there wasn't a whole heap. You know what? I probably didn't need as much, like, thermals and underwear.

Tanya [00:29:14]:

That's what I took because, like, underwear you wash it. Know, we've washed it pretty much every day. Yeah. And I've taken a set of boots, which I often do when I go away, but I didn't actually really wear them much. I had 2 pairs of sand shoes And one of them were waterproof, so I wore them a lot. And I took a pair of, like, slides, more summery shoes. So Yeah. Probably not boots.

Tanya [00:29:35]:

Yeah. But apart from that, maybe a few less shirts and things, so a couple of less outfits. But I didn't most stuff I did actually use. My husband, he said he he's probably more likely to rewear his clothes much more than I do, so he felt he had too much. I bought every single thing in my bag, but I probably didn't need to wear some of them. So, yeah, I need to revisit that next time I go.

Tracy Collins [00:29:56]:

Was there anything that surprised you about Your trip to the UK. I know you've been before, but was there anything this time you kinda went, wow. Didn't expect that.

Tanya [00:30:03]:

Oh, you know one thing that surprised me, which people probably laugh at, the dogs. Like, we're dog people. It's dogs everywhere. People take their dog everywhere with them. We loved it. We my husband probably had more conversations with dogs or people about their dogs than anything else Because it seemed like our our dog that we've got here is a spoodle. In England, they call them Cockapoos, and that seems to be one of them prem premium sort of brand of dog. And so we're gonna talk to all these dog owners.

Tanya [00:30:28]:

So, yeah, we love that that was a big, So, the roads in Cornwall, even though everyone had told us about them, they were kinda next level. They also were up the top of Skye. We went to the lighthouse at Skye. The roads up there were pretty crazy, but like I said, my husband likes driving. So he was like a rally car driver on those roads. He had a great time with it. But I I don't I could have driven those you know, I could drive, like, the motorways and that sort of thing, but some of those real skinny ones, you know. Yeah.

Tanya [00:30:56]:

The beaches in Cornwall, like I have particularly said, I've set really surprised me because I I love the beaches in Australia and around where we live here. So and I've always kind of considered all that, you know, Australia's got almost the best beaches in the world and I probably wasn't expecting a couple of those really beautiful beaches, So that surprised us. I was I was surprised by the weather as we've discussed. I've heard all about the changeable weather and all the rest of it, but until I'd actually lived it. Yeah. So, yeah. So they were quite I was surprised by Ireland just generally too, how much fun Ireland was and the people And just the not you know, going to the pubs and then at night was so much fun. So, yeah, there was lots and lots of thing.

Tanya [00:31:34]:

Oh, the cost, like I said to you before the thing, Just the cost to the Australian dollar's probably not doing that well against the pound. So sometimes things will more than double. And I and I knew it was much more expensive over there, but it was probably more It's a bit to begin than what I think.

Tracy Collins [00:31:48]:

I think it's every time I go back, I think it's got more expensive.

Tanya [00:31:51]:

Yeah. Yeah. It's a

Tracy Collins [00:31:52]:

bit and as you say, the Australian dollar's not not Brilliant at the moment either, so it's always a bit of a when you pay for something, you go, how much would that be worth?

Tanya [00:32:00]:

That we didn't buy them in souvenirs and things, but We didn't buy many sizable souvenirs or anything. Large I mean, we couldn't fit them in our luggage, but largely too just that exchange rate, just wasn't great. But in saying that this week, I've since I've been home, I

ordered a China tea cup from one of the palaces because I like To do that when I go. And I paid a ridiculous amount of money for the for it, but I like them, so I did.

Tracy Collins [00:32:23]:

Yeah. Yeah. No. No. So is there anything that you plan to do differently next time you visit?

Tanya [00:32:27]:

Maybe try and start in Edinburgh, do London in the middle, have some downtime, maybe in the middle. I can actually schedule A holiday, like a beach holiday or something where you're not sightseeing at all. And you can see it especially because book.

Tracy Collins [00:32:40]:

Yeah. Because you had 35 days, which is a long time. So in that time, really, it it is Pretty full on. And I know you you flew back via Singapore and spent a couple of days there. Didn't you? Having a Yeah. Chill out by the pool?

Tanya [00:32:50]:

Yeah. And, look, I would do that, though. We actually found The flight from Australia is quite difficult this time, just the length of it, and it's so uncomfortable. So we've said every time we travel to that side of the world, we're going to break the flight both ways. We don't care what country it is or where it is, but we'll always break it and have at least 1 night, hopefully. No.

Tracy Collins [00:33:07]:

It's a good idea. I mean, we've we've done that. We've broken it In Hong Kong, in Singapore, in Dubai, and it just makes such a difference.

Tanya [00:33:15]:

This is told me they'd broken a trip, and it was the best thing.

Tracy Collins [00:33:18]:

Yeah. No. A 100%. So I'm gonna end the podcast with a question that asks, absolutely everybody who comes on the podcast. Okay. So, Tanya, what is the one tip you would give to anyone planning a trip to the UK for the first time?

Tanya [00:33:32]:

Oh, look. I'd just say research, research, research. Talk To, you know, use your Facebook page, your podcast website, talk to anyone that you can talk to who's been there, and get their opinions. Yes. So get all your research, and and then I really thought it was very good. We had it planned very well from the research. It was planned very well. Every day we had planned, But it's important, and you say this, I know, you've got to be flexible in your planning.

Tanya [00:33:57]:

Look. We had train strikes and bad weather, and some days, we just couldn't do all those 50 things I had Planned. I know you say not to overplan, and we probably did overplan a bit, but what I with the plan, I'd, Prior to leaving, I've gone through and highlighted just 2 things that were must dos that day. So if we were too tired or something happened and we couldn't do

the other few, that was okay. So you have research is my key point. Plan well from the research, but be flexible in your plan.

Tracy Collins [00:34:24]:

Yeah. No. I think that's a really, really good tip, and it's something that We do suggest I love actually that idea of what you said about highlighting a couple of must dos in a day because I think sometimes you might you have in your head, I'm gonna do these 5 or 6 things, particularly in London. We'll do and then and then they get disappointed when they can't do all of them, but actually, you're best off going well. You know, if I could do these 2 things, then I'll be happy at the end of the day. Yeah. And the others are kind of a bonus.

Tanya [00:34:47]:

Yeah. That is right. So, yeah. So that's what I found that important. And look, I think being a teacher, that that's probably part of that planning. I know when I used to teach little kids years ago, you You don't want them not to be busy, so you'd play in the peeps, but then maybe only do half. And, so I think that's quite natural to me To Yeah. Learn a lot, but don't do it all.

Tanya [00:35:07]:

Yeah.

Tracy Collins [00:35:07]:

No. It's really good. Well, thanks so much, Tanya, for calling on the podcast. It's been fantastic talking to you. It's lovely to have an Aussie on as well. So, hopefully, we'll get some more Aussies coming on Yeah. To check because, obviously, it's slightly different when you travel from this Side of the world because it's a it's a heck of a long way to go.

Tanya [00:35:24]:

It is. Yeah.

Tracy Collins [00:35:26]:

So you've gotta yeah. You've gotta When you're gonna go over there, kinda make the most of that, the time that you've got there because it takes you such a long time to get there and back.

Tanya [00:35:34]:

Yeah. Yeah. Absolutely. Absolutely.

Tracy Collins [00:35:36]:

Yeah. So thanks again, Tanya. It's been fantastic talking to you.

Tanya [00:35:39]:

Yep. Thank you. Had a great time. Thank you.

Tracy Collins [00:35:42]:

Thanks once again, Tanya, for agreeing to come on to the podcast. It was great to talk to her about her fantastic trip. You can find all information about the places that Tanya visited in the show notes for this which are atuktravelplanet.com/forward/episoed82. All I can say until next

week's which if you are arriving into one of the London airports, you might want to tune into because they're gonna be talking to Riz of X4cars About his transfer service into London, and, that I'm sure that's gonna be a really interesting episode. I know when I arrive into, Heathrow Or into any airport, actually, around the world. I always want to have a driver pick me up and whisk me at my hotel. I find it so less Stressful when I'm flying, having to even consider when I arrive what I'm gonna do. So that'll be next week.

Tracy Collins [00:36:31]:

So until then, I just wanna wish you all Happy UK travel planning.