

[00:00:01.360] - Intro

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.

[00:00:37.210] - Tracy

Hello and welcome to Episode 51 of the UK Travel Planning Podcast. In this week's episode, I chat with guest, Robbie Wright about her and husband, Glenn's recent England adventure, which included time in London, Arundel, Bath, York and the Cotswolds. I began by asking Robbie to introduce herself, tell us where she's from and who she went with on the trip.

[00:01:02.350] - Robbie

Okay. I'm from Northern California. We live in a little town called Alborn, and I went on the trip with my husband, Glenn.

[00:01:10.650] - Tracy

You did. And how long were you in the UK for?

[00:01:15.350] - Robbie

Three weeks. So it was April and May, wasn't it, that you were there? Yeah. Got there April 18, actually. And then we left on May 12.

[00:01:26.900] - Tracy

And of course, when you were over, we got the opportunity to meet, which was lovely.

[00:01:30.610] - Robbie

Yes, I know. That was one of the best parts.

[00:01:34.370] - Tracy

Meeting you and Glenn was amazing. And it was so cool to see you guys after... Obviously, you're a member of the Facebook group and you sent emails and stuff, so it was really nice to meet up with you. Let's think about when you came to start planning your trip to the UK. How did you go about doing that, Robbie?

[00:01:54.330] - Robbie

Okay, well, what happened was first I looked for on YouTube, how could I get cheap tickets? In the process of that, and then having booked our tickets, I don't know how you popped up if it was just a little ad or something like that. It was UK Travel Planning. I was like, Okay, so I got on that. And that was the beginning of the whole thing. I got on the website and then I saw the Facebook group and then I saw the podcast. And you know, I listen to the podcast over and over and over. I mean, I'm going back and listening to them again now.

[00:02:33.560] - Tracy

That's so lovely. You realise this is actually Episode 51. I can't believe we're on Episode 51. It's crazy. Yeah. Oh, my. And also, it's great that you agreed to come on and talk about your trip. We really appreciate it when you guys do that because it can be a bit nerve racking if you're not used to talking on a podcast, coming on and then being interrogated by me all about your trip. So obviously, you did the research. You found our website and you joined the Facebook group. I know you've been really good in that. And one thing that you did, which was really good as well is when I did lives, for example, with Victoria from Cotswold Teacup tours, you asked questions and came on, which is great. It's the best way to find out stuff, isn't it? Come on, ask questions, get involved. So, I guess you had an idea of... Did you have an idea of the places you wanted to go in the UK before you started really getting into planning, or did you get ideas as you went along?

[00:03:34.870] - Robbie

I didn't have any ideas other than we were going to go to London. We've never travelled with doing any tours. We lived in Europe four and a half years. And so even in the US, when we travel, we just go there and then whatever catches our fancy. And so I didn't. I got the ideas from the podcast.

[00:04:00.320] - Tracy

Let's talk about where you went. Then give us a brief overview of your time in the UK. Where did you go?

[00:04:08.030] - Robbie

Well, we went to London, then we went down to Arundel Castle, then we went to the Cotswolds, and then we went to York. Those are the regions that we went. And so when we went to the Cotswolds, we stayed nine days. And from there, we branched out to see things. And the same with York.

[00:04:29.350] - Tracy

And how did you get around? Did you have a car?

[00:04:33.600] - Robbie

We drove. We got a car.

[00:04:36.440] - Tracy

How did he find the drive in? Did it just feel weird driving on the other side of the road? Because obviously, I know you lived in Germany before, but obviously they drive on the same side as you do in the States.

[00:04:48.460] - Robbie

Well, we had gone to Ireland about six years ago, so it wasn't the very, very first time. But it takes two or three days to get used to it. He had said that he owed me a trip back to Ireland because he wouldn't let me drive there because the roads were so narrow and the bushes. It just was freaking him out. He needed to take a sedative. He's always said he needed to take me back so I could drive. I did do some, but there was so much more traffic that it was like, Okay. I drove three days just for the fun of it, and then he did all the rest of it.

[00:05:29.710] - Tracy

I was going to say, hats off to you, though, doing the driving because I know a lot of people, they nominate one driver and that's the person that does all the driving. Even now, I'm used to driving on the left, but last year I was like, I nominated Doug to do most of the driving and he did a lot of it because even somebody's used to it. They go to Scotland in some of those lanes or down in Cornwall and the Cotswolds, there's some very narrow little lanes that can be a little bit hairy at times, can't there?

[00:05:57.240] - Robbie

It's wild. But it's driving.

[00:05:59.650] - Tracy

But Glenn found it pretty good. He was okay with it.

[00:06:02.730] - Robbie

Yeah, it was a lot of fun. We team drove. I did all the... As we'd come to a traffic circle, I'd be going, Give way to the right, give way to the right.

[00:06:15.350] - Tracy

That's good. I know when I've done that with Doug, when we've been over in France, it's like, You've got to give the directions when you're going around the roundabout or stay this lane, stay that. Keep thinking about that. All those tips that you give each other when you're driving. That's really good.

[00:06:30.740] - Robbie

I thought Glenn might go whatever about Tripiamo. But I had him watch the video and he repeatedly said, I am so glad that you got that video because it just set us up for success.

[00:06:50.280] - Tracy

That's brilliant. That's good to know. I'll let John know who launched Tripiamo. He'd be really happy to hear that. I know we've had some excellent reviews from people who've used it and said how much it prepares you to drive. If you're from North America and you're not used to driving on the left and you don't know the rules of the road, or just to prepare you, it's a really good way to do it. So that's really great to hear that from from Glenn that he enjoyed that. And he actually enjoyed the drive because it can be stressful. And you can have arguments when you're driving when it gets so stressful, which isn't great on holidays. You say you have a bit more of a looser framework for your travels in that you knew the places that you wanted to go to. You'd listen to the podcast. Obviously, we've got podcasts about Cotswolds with Victoria. I know I think you went on a tour with our lovely Victoria of Cotswold Teacup Tours, didn't you? So how did that go?

[00:07:48.490] - Robbie

Oh, my gosh, it was so wonderful. It was spending time with her, meeting you and spending time with her were major highlights of our trip because I felt like I already had friends before I got here. And so it was just like I was meeting friends. At first, when I would talk to the family, I'd say, Tracy of the website or whatever. And then as time went on, I was saying, Tracy said this and Tracy said that, and everybody knew.

[00:08:20.030] - Tracy

Who are you talking about?

[00:08:21.360] - Robbie

But with Victoria, gosh, she's so lovely. She picked us up in her little van. It's the cutest thing. I can't remember which the name of it is. But anyway, it has a name. She brought some snacks and she just took us around. Glenn and I were talking about it last night. The stories she knew, the places that she took us to, we had questions, she'd answer them. She took us to the Tolkien Door of Durin place.

[00:08:59.810] - Tracy

In Stow?

[00:09:00.920] - Robbie

About that. It was just so much fun. It was her knowledge. Would want to do it again. Both of us would want to. The test thing is if we go back and go to all the same places, we won't see. That's the thing.

[00:09:23.980] - Tracy

But I do have, because obviously I pick and choose the best driver tour guides. I love my entire... All my partners that I work with, they're amazing. John Victoria, Mark in Northumberland, Doug down in Cornwall. And I've just got Oz on board who does private tours from London. I'm very lucky because I guess they pick and choose to work with me as well. But we're very lucky that we have just created a wonderful, wonderful team, even right all up to far north Scotland with Sally Ann and Robert. So we are lucky. And we're constantly adding to that team as well so that we can offer you guys the best people when you come. And all the people we work with come on the podcast. And I think that also helps because you hear the voices and you can meet them in their Facebook as well. So as you say, it's like coming across and meeting up with friends, isn't it? By the time you come. That's really good.

[00:10:24.410] - Robbie

Because we did the Tower of London Walks tour.

[00:10:28.910] - Tracy

Yes.

[00:10:29.510] - Robbie

Beefeater Welcome. And after we did that, we discovered that everything that we went to do later, like when we went to Westminster Abbey, you're walking around, but you don't know what you're looking at. You know what I mean?

[00:10:44.880] - Tracy
Yeah.

[00:10:45.400] - Robbie
So here it's like, oh, okay, here this person was buried here, this person, this person. But you don't know anything. And in the tower of London, we learned all these things. And with Victoria, we learned all these things. And so the value of the tours is it made the trip.

[00:11:06.220] - Tracy
Absolutely. You know something? I absolutely 100 % agree with you about that because we can all go these places independently and buy ticket and have a look around, but you're absolutely right. You don't learn as much. You don't glean the knowledge. You might look at something and you don't necessarily know what it is. And so you actually might walk around a building, but that's what you do. You walk around the building, you don't actually learn anything about the history of it. And I think as well, when you go out with the driver tour guides as well, they know places that only locals know. You get stories. And we all want to know stories, don't we, about the place to really learn about it. And that's what they can share with you, tell you those stories that bring a place alive. And I think if people don't want to do tours, I don't want to do tours. I'm like, I would always do a tour. Everywhere I go, I do tours. And those are the most memorable things. Those are things that you remember.

[00:12:04.390] - Robbie
Yeah, those are the stories we can tell our family. Those are the things we talk about. And those are the things that we're talking about at the barber shop.

[00:12:11.910] - Tracy
Yeah, that's perfect. It's brilliant. Well, you can tell all your customers as well, come over and visit the UK, which would be great. That'd be brilliant. So obviously, you had the places planned, you had the ideas, you did the research, you listened to the podcast. Obviously, some of the tours you had to book in advance that Victoria gets very booked up. She's booked up pretty much solid, I think, for the next couple of months. So how far in advance did you start thinking about booking the tours and booking accommodation and that thing?

[00:12:48.940] - Robbie
Okay. Victoria's podcast, jump on and book it because I want to go there. So pretty much as I learned about him, I did. And with London, one of the things with London is everything starts at the same time, pretty much. So it's hard to get more than one thing in a day. I would just book them. Then, well, honestly, I booked more than one with Viator or Walks or whatever. And then from there, because you can cancel it.

[00:13:25.660] - Tracy
Yes.

[00:13:26.430] - Robbie
Then we looked at the calendar. Is this something we really wanted to do? What matched with what? What day would we have to go for that one? So as far as how far in advance before... I started in October planning, and I had all the tours booked by end of November.

[00:13:48.800] - Tracy
That's a good thing to do because quite often, and I read it in the Facebook group, I was reading somebody yesterday saying, I think they couldn't get tickets for Harry Potter Studios, they couldn't get tickets for the Jackobite. And we say for those, you really need to book. Those are so popular, you need to book well ahead of time for all of those sorts of things. And obviously, the private driver tour guides as well get booked up. Like Domi, my photographer in London, they get booked up. So I think

it's right. As soon as you hear about something or you're interested in something, is reach out, get that book and made, get it done. And if you go through Viator or Get Your Guide, you can always... Most of the tours you can cancel up to 24 hours before. So it's a case of when you're working your logistics out is figuring out what's your most important things that you want to do and get them in, I think.

[00:14:39.990] - Robbie

We did not get tickets for the Roman baths until the day we went there. And then that's it. We're in Bath, but we were staying in the Cotswolds. We were an hour and a half away from Bath, and we had to go back the next day just to see the Roman baths because we hadn't booked the ticket. But we routed back through some of the villages, we made it work. But that's an example right there. If we hadn't booked it, we'd have missed it.

[00:15:12.950] - Tracy

Absolutely. Well, it's funny because I'm taking my mom next month to Bath because she's just had her 80th birthday. So I'm taking her there for three days. And I booked the Roman baths about a week ago, got the tickets exactly for that. It's because if it's an important thing, we're going for afternoon tea at the Jane Austin Centre as well because my daughter's paying for that. For my birthday, my mom's birthday. But I've booked that already. It's those important things is like, No, I really want to do that. So therefore, I'm going to get that booked. That's important. So what about accommodation, Robbie? How did you choose your accommodation and what accommodation did you stay in?

[00:15:49.180] - Robbie

We are Airbnb people. Everywhere we go, we do Airbnb. And we did a hotel in London and we did what you said about stay where it is that you want to. Where's most important on your trip? Another thing that you said was that you need to decide why you're coming. So if you're coming for history, are you coming for World War II? Are you coming for literature? Are you coming for various things? And so we talked about that and what was important to us. And so we stayed in Westminster. Is that the area? Yeah. We stayed in Westminster so we could just basically walk out the door and go to those places and not have to waste the time on the tube, which you said.

[00:16:41.810] - Tracy

And I think that's important if you can do that state. Absolutely, really, because otherwise, you're going to be travelling in and out. I just know for me personally, and I've said this numerous times, but it's like, you've done 25,000 steps or something a day, you don't want to then get back on the tube and have to travel the tube because there's a lot of steps between those tube stations and then walk back to accommodation because I'm over it by that point. My feet have had enough from the say no, so I like to do so. We're actually because in a few weeks' time, I'm going over to Paris for the day. So we're staying very close to St. Pancras International because I just want to be able to walk across there, get on the train and when I come back after the day, walk back to the hotel. It's really important for me. But your accommodation, you had good accommodation, you liked it?

[00:17:31.810] - Robbie

We did Airbnb. We like to stay with families so that we can meet local people and be able to have conversations with them. We had wonderful conversations with the families we stayed with when we went to Arundel. We had just our own flat. It was a vacation home, so they weren't there. But we were straight across from the wall of the castle. We were on one side of the street, it was on the other side of the street, and it was fabulous. So yeah, we've really enjoyed the time with the families, and that's why we do Airbnb.

[00:18:11.010] - Tracy

And that's lovely. And it's a really good reason. Another reason I say if people like B&Bs or guest houses, another great way to meet local families and to meet local travellers or whoever's traveling to the area, sit there for breakfast and have a chat about who's going where. And then you get all the tips, don't you? We're off to Edinburgh next Monday and we're staying at the Elder house, the Elder York Guest House. And we've stayed there for years because we absolutely love Murray and his dad who run it, the Edinburgh born and bred. We get a fantastic full Scottish breakfast. And Murray knows all the best places and all the tips about where to go and where to eat and what to do. That's

invaluable, isn't it? Being able to do that. So let's talk about food because I've talked about breakfast then. How did you find the food? I know one I did help you find somewhere to eat. You found a Wetherspoons, didn't you?

[00:19:08.950] - Robbie

Yes, we did find Wetherspoons. From there on, that's pretty much the pubs that we went to. Everywhere we went, I looked it up. Is there a Weatherspoon? Because then that was easy. We went places like in Whitby, we went to Magpie. So that was different. But yeah, it was wonderful. We went to Wetherspoons and their menu was really big.

[00:19:34.300] - Tracy

Yes, lots of choices.

[00:19:37.800] - Robbie

Yes. It's a good price as well. And it's very popular with British people as well. You find lots of Brits eat there because it's good prices. Did you do any meal deals? Did you go for the sandwiches, drinks?

[00:19:50.930] - Robbie

Oh, my gosh. Every single day. We said we had a picnic sitting here and we had a picnic sitting there. But absolutely, they were fabulous. You go in, you pick your sandwich, your chips, your drink. And yes, we tried all the different sandwiches. This trip was for our 50th anniversary. So our kids are giving us a party in June. So they have asked me to send them what we ate so that they could make it. And one of the things that I did was all the different sandwiches. I was like, We love all these little deals. And there was the one with the cheese and the Chutney and the egg and the sweet corn.

[00:20:37.090] - Tracy

Brilliant. You have to show me some photos of that, Robbie. You got it. That'd be so cool. You need a little Union Jack sticking out with sandwiches.

[00:20:46.860] - Robbie

To tell them that. And they told me yesterday that she'd love to have a red phone booth in the venue. She said, We can't do that. But we were talking about what to do. So they're going to decorate it like an English garden.

[00:21:00.630] - Tracy

That's going to be so lovely. That'd be lovely. It'll be really lovely to see the pictures of that as well. Because you've got a lovely family. I know you showed me pictures when I met you guys in London. Actually, the day that we met, unfortunately, we went to... I was really excited about going to the Cafe in the Crypt, but there was actually something going on that day. But you did say to me, you actually went back. You managed to go and have something to eat there?

[00:21:25.840] - Robbie

Yeah, before. We stayed in Windsor at the tray, the Airbnb we stayed at in Windsor, you walk out on the balcony and right there was Windsor Castle. You could just look at it. It was just so crazy. But that was our last two days. And that bit before going to the airport. So what we did is when we got there, we jumped on the train and we went back to London to do anything that we hadn't got to do. And that's when we went to Cafe in the Crypt.

[00:21:57.450] - Tracy

Okay. So you managed to... I'm glad that you managed to go. The food's really nice there. It's somewhere that I always like to go. And not everybody knows about it. Tell me about your favourite things that you did. What were the standouts? I know meeting myself in Victoria was lovely.

[00:22:11.620] - Robbie

Yes.

[00:22:12.240] - Tracy

What are the things that the other memories that you're going to have in your trip places or experiences?

[00:22:18.630] - Speaker 2

Arundel Castle was definitely a highlight. And it was just a quick add on because we weren't going to be able to do a part of our trip that we had planned. And we were actually going to drive through there on the way to the next destination, which was Portsmouth. It's a whole other story. But anyway, I said, well, let's see if we could find an Airbnb there. That castle, oh, my gosh, it is so beautiful. And the tulips were blooming everywhere. There were tulips. The castle was wonderful. And then we found out that we went to a little museum in the man told us that was the Duke of Norfolk's Castle. And then he explained who he was and that he was the highest duke in the country and that he would be on the podium or the stage or whatever with the Archbishop of Canterbury at the coronation. These are things you wouldn't know if you didn't talk to people. But I don't know. It's just walking around the castle. It's a small village. We found the tea and biscuit club. We spent a ton of money shipping tea back for everybody.

[00:23:37.980] - Tracy

That's funny.

[00:23:39.420] - Robbie

The little girl that worked there. So that was definitely a highlight. Doing the tour with Victoria was priceless. We absolutely loved that. Let me see, I wrote down, go through here. We went to Blenheim Palace. That was really amazing and love that. In Bath, we enjoyed a lot of what we saw there. The crescent, that just really was so impressive to Glenn. He really enjoyed that. Bath was really for him. But then I found that... I enjoyed it too. But it was like, where do we go? And so many of our customers said Bath, and so we went there and it was great. And of course, I mean, the Roman baths were amazing.

[00:24:38.310] - Tracy

They're fantastic. Absolutely fantastic.

[00:24:40.580] - Robbie

But seeing all the little villages, we went through Castle Combe and we went to Bibury and we went to Moreton on the Water. Oh, and then Victoria had told, because I like to knit. And on one of the lives, she said she was... No, on one of the podcast, she was talking about a place you could still get Cotswold wool and this is definitely a highlight for me. So she had given me the contact information for that shop, and it was in Chipping Norton. So we went there, which was right by our Airbnb. So we went there and I bought some Cotswold wool from the sheep that graze now, which was wonderful. But she also told me that she had... There was a lady, a young lady who raised Cotswold lion sheep, and she spins it. Anyway, they only had one scane of it there. Maybe they didn't have any. Well, anyway, she said she could get it for me. So she went and she got some for me and she delivered it the next day to the place we were staying because we weren't going to be there. I mean, people are just so fabulous. So that was really fun. I got to go to see that place. And then she sent us on to where they used to actually weave the wool. And we went there. They don't weave it now, but we went upstairs. There was the looms and all of those things and talked to the owner. But I'm so excited that I got that wool.

[00:26:27.250] - Tracy

Is it dyed wool or is it?

[00:26:30.870] - Robbie

No, all of that wool is natural.

[00:26:34.730] - Tracy

Oh, wow. Oh, that's great. Well, I'm seeing Victoria tomorrow. I will pass that on. Yeah. So was there anything... Obviously, I'll actually ask you about York before I go on the next question. What about York? Was there any standouts about York?

[00:26:46.820] - Robbie

I think the biggest stand out for me was how big the Minster is. Yeah, it is. I think it's because I looked it up square feet in size and it's just a little bit bigger than Westminster Abbey. But I think because York is smaller and the Minster is so big, just like you feel like it's everywhere. It's just its presence is just so big. We really enjoyed that. We loved the tour that we did of the walls. It was a private tour of the walls. We learned all these different things about his focus was from the Romans on to the present. And he was that through building structure. And so that was fun to do that. And then on Sunday after the coronation, they rang the bells of the minister the whole entire day.

[00:27:57.070] - Tracy

Wow.

[00:27:57.830] - Robbie

It would stop for a little bit. And Glenn was like, Maybe they're changing the guy that's ringing the bell.

[00:28:04.370] - Tracy

He's tired, yeah. I've given them a break. So of course, because you were in the UK for the coronation time. So tell us about that.

[00:28:12.140] - Robbie

That was really a lot of fun. We saw them setting things up, the bands or the bleachers over the Palace. And they were pulling out the barriers that they would put along the roadway. One of my favorite things was because they were doing all of that, it was jamming the traffic up, which probably wasn't making anybody happy. But that particular day, the rain came down like nothing. It just poured. It was so hard. And so the streets were really wet and the reflection of the buses and all of that. I loved it. I wanted to sing in the rain.

[00:29:00.110] - Tracy

You had pretty good weather as well when you were over, didn't you?

[00:29:03.570] - Robbie

I did. So then the family we were staying with, they had a family that their family, they were going to go see... They had this big coronation family thing they do. I couldn't find a place to... I think we could have gone to Harrogate. They had some screenings there, but I just wasn't prepared for all of that. So the family set their TV up so we could watch it. And we saw that and we saw that and we saw that. So that was a lot of fun. And then the little villages, they all had... They were doing fairs for the kids where they would have games they could play and they were selling stuff like that. So I was really wanting to see how the country celebrated the local people. How do you celebrate your...

[00:29:58.640] - Tracy

It's a hugely historic event and you were there to experience it. So very excited. So apart from obviously, you brought the Cotswold wool back, was there any of the souvenirs that you bought? Any other things that you brought us? I know you brought tea because you sent tea back and the wool. Was anything else that you bought?

[00:30:17.690] - Robbie

Oh, I'm trying to think. Well, when I went to the woollen mill, then I bought a Gloucester. How would you say that? Gloucester? Yeah. They had plaids from different. And so I bought a scarf from there. So that was one. Gosh, I can't think of what we got in London. I know we did.

[00:30:38.270] - Tracy

But did you ship stuff back? I know you shipped the tea back, I guess.

[00:30:42.500] - Robbie

Yeah, we shipped that. Thing else. It was just little things that we were able to get into the suitcase but yeah.

[00:30:49.430] - Tracy

How did you get on with your packing? Did you find that you took too much or not enough? Did you have to buy anything?

[00:30:56.570] - Robbie

Well, the only thing that we had to buy was a curling iron because I got a converter for my curling iron, but it didn't like it anyway, so it died. So we had to buy that. So I definitely recommend if you need anything like that, you just go buy something there.

[00:31:14.810] - Tracy

There's plenty of shops to pop in and buy. They're not expensive, really.

[00:31:19.980] - Robbie

Especially since the one I had was expensive. Now I've lost that, I have to buy another one. So there was that. But you know because I listened to the podcast and on your website, you have articles for everything and you have some on luggage and packing. And so, no, we didn't take anything over there we didn't need and we weren't sorry for anything we took, and we didn't need anything when we got there. It was absolutely perfect.

[00:31:56.380] - Tracy

Brilliant. So was there anything that surprised you about the UK that you weren't expecting?

[00:32:02.430] - Robbie

Well, one of the things is we love to listen to the accent, enjoy talking to people. And we found that when we were on the bus that they were listening to us. And then we would start talking and they're like, We just love listening to your accent. We're like, What? And so we had wonderful experiences. But them being as interested in our accent as we were theirs, that was a surprise. But one of the is there's no outlets. It's not allowed by building code to have an outlet in the bathroom. We are so not used to that. So then you have to figure out where am I going to plug in the hairdryer? Where am I going to plug in pretty much anything? And then there aren't very many outlets in the rooms. And so Glenn had thought ahead and brought a power strip. So it had lots of outlets on it and extension cords. I don't know what made him think about doing that, but that was...

[00:33:08.100] - Tracy

That's what I travel with a board. And you know something, I actually should put that into the packing list because for me, obviously, I'm bringing lots of things over from Australia, so different plugs. So I just bring my one that I plug in and then everything can go into that and charge my laptop up and charge my phone up and things like that. So, yeah. So Glenn was thinking well ahead with that one. And a lot of the places in the UK, they're very old. And it's something I say, they don't necessarily have a lift or elevator. They don't have air conditioning. They don't have a lot of sockets. Those things, I guess, can catch you out a bit if you're not used to it. And it's said, I'm going to say, it's like, some of these places, I'm staying in a place tomorrow in Stow on the Wold, and I think it's about four or five hundred years old. Is there anything you would plan to do differently next time you visit the UK or were you totally happy with everything that went?

[00:34:05.310] - Robbie

Glenn and I talked about that last night and we can't think of anything that we would do differently. I tell you, it's like I said at the beginning, I feel like it's a commercial for UK Travel Planning and the podcast and everything. I encourage people, even in the Facebook page, really do the things that you have said. It made everything so wonderful. It's a model for going the next time. Brilliant. Other than just not being able to stay there, we actually considered not serious seriously. But when we were in Arundel, we walked past a real estate office and they had a sign there. It was like, if you're over 60 years old, you could buy stuff for 49 % off or something like that. And we were looking at one and we were like, We could buy that and then we could use it as an Airbnb.

[00:35:08.020] - Tracy

That would be lovely. And you could spend a bit more time in the UK. That's right. So I'm going to finish with the last question that I ask everybody, which is, what is the one tip that you would give to anyone planning a trip to the UK for the very first time?

[00:35:25.080] - Robbie

Booking. It would be booking your tours, booking your pubs. We thought, Oh, we're not really going to need to do that. Then we found out, No, we really need to do that. And Betty's, I didn't think we were going to be able to get into Betty's. And when I looked, we could not make a reservation at all. No, you can't. But our family that we were staying with said, Oh, you don't have to make a reservation. You can just queue up. So we did. And it just happened to work out that we were like the fifth people in the queue. And you can still have the high tea doing it that way.

[00:36:08.940] - Tracy

Sometimes that queue gets really long because it's such a popular place to go. I think that's an important point and a good thing to bring up is, again, is not leaving it to the last minute. Once you know is then getting things booked up, I think, to avoid being disappointed and thinking or missing out on the things that you really want to do. I think it is however an advance you feel is, if something's open and it's available, then yeah, absolutely book it. I book my accommodation. I use booking.com because I like the fact that I can get the free cancellation. I used to Get Your Guide for more larger tours. And again, you've got that free cancellation. People as I say, like Victoria and John and Mark, everybody gets booked up really fast. There's a lot of post COVID tourism is getting very busy. London, as you say, is getting very busy. And so you just have to think ahead and do it. So I think that's an excellent bit of advice there, Robbie, for sure. Obviously, it worked out for you guys because you managed to get everything that you wanted to do. You saw everything that you'd planned to do and see. That's excellent.

[00:37:24.620] - Robbie

Glenn keeps saying that it was the best vacation that we've ever had.

[00:37:29.040] - Tracy

Oh, that's lovely. You need to say hello to Glenn from me.

[00:37:31.640] - Robbie

I will.

[00:37:33.740] - Tracy

But I guess for this episode of the podcast, it just leaves me to say to you, Robbie, thanks so much for coming on and agreeing to talk us through your trip and give us your tips and your experiences from your visit. I'm going to say thank you very much from myself and Doug as well for just being amazing in the Facebook group and just been so lovely, just saying such lovely things. It just makes us feel really happy to hear that. And it's why we started everything, why we did the podcast, why we did the Facebook group and how we do it. And it's just amazing. Just makes us feel really warm when we're here. This feedback from yourself and Glenn about how much you enjoyed your trip.

[00:38:17.450] - Robbie

Well, you're welcome. It was really, truly the best trip ever. I hope that when we come again, we can cross paths again and even meet Doug.

[00:38:27.410] - Tracy

Yeah, well, hopefully. Well, hopefully, well, you never know, we might be over in the states later in the year, so hopefully you can.

[00:38:31.860] - Robbie

Oh, yes, you have to come.

[00:38:33.840] - Tracy

Yeah, but if not, well, next time in the UK, hopefully, we'll be there at the same time and we can

organise it. But that would be great. But thanks so much for coming on the podcast this week. It's been great talking to you. Thanks, Robbie.

[00:38:45.950] - Robbie
Thank you.

[00:38:47.770] - Robbie

Thanks again to Robbie for coming on to the podcast this week and chatting about her trip report. I really enjoyed talking to you, Robbie. Thank you again. You can find information about all the places and tours Robbie talked about in this episode at uktravelplanning.Com/Episode-51. A huge thank you also to Robbie for sponsoring the UK Travel Planning podcast every month. If you're enjoying our weekly podcast and would like to show your support for our work, please pop over. There will be a link in their show notes to sponsor the show from as little as three US dollars a month. I want to say a huge thanks to Tina Lang, Hannah Waterman, Veneta Thomas, Deborah Harrison, Donna Owen, and of course, Robbie for your ongoing support and sponsorship. We really appreciate it. That just leaves me with to say for this week, as always, happy UK travel planning.