

[00:00:00.000] - 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.

[00:00:38.200] - Karen

Okay, welcome to the UK Travel Planning podcast. This week I am chatting to Karen, who you may recognise or whose voice you may recognise. She is the one who does the intro for the podcast. So, Karen interviewed me on episode 14, where I discussed the highlights of our UK trip last year. And she was talking about her own trip to the UK at that time. So in this episode, Karen has come back to tell us all about her trip to the UK with her family last October. So, Karen, would you like to introduce yourself and tell us all about who you are and just tell us a quick brief overview of the trip as well.

[00:01:15.400] - Karen

Hey, Tracy. Yeah, you might recognise my voice from the intro. And we had a chat a little while ago when you were inspiring me about your trip around the UK, just as we were planning our trip back there as well. I run a website called Smart Steps to Australia, where I help families move to Australia because eight years ago, eight and a half years ago, I moved with my family to Australia from Hampshire in the UK. So you might recognise my accent being from the UK. So yeah, we haven't been back to the UK since we moved over here and we've been wanting to go back, but obviously COVID got in the way for many years. So we were planning on going back last year and we ended up going back for six weeks. We did a bit of a whistle stop tour and took in lots of different sites. But really for us, the main aim was to go back and see our friends and family who were dotted all around the UK. So we did quite a bit of tour around lots of different places. So yeah, hopefully I can share a little bit about places we went to, how we travelled around, and food we love, and all those things.

[00:02:16.980] - Tracy

Perfect. So you arrived in September, didn't you?

[00:02:22.290] - Karen

Yeah. We arrived at the end of September and we stayed through to October. So we planned it so that we could travel through the kids in Australia school holidays, take two weeks of that, and take a bit of time either side of the holidays. We also didn't really think we'd cope very well in the UK winter. We've lived in Queensland for too long now and we're pretty soft, so we don't like the cold anymore. And my kids didn't own coats or anything like that. They didn't wear jeans. They rarely wear shoes, to be honest, outside of school in Brisbane. So it was a bit of a shock, but we thought we'd go... September time is a nice weather in the UK. It's not too hot, it's not yet cold. We thought it was a good time to go. We spent just under six weeks there and it was really good fun. We got to catch up with lots of people and do lots of travelling while we were there. It was very busy.

[00:03:21.140] - Tracy

I can imagine. Well, after the last podcast when you talked to me about our 12 week trip, how busy that was. I'm going back for another 12 weeks. I actually arrived back on April 11th, and I've got to actually plan my itinerary. But the list grows of things that I'm going to try and fit into those 12 weeks. So I actually need to take a bit of my own advice and sit down and prioritise and start planning my itinerary.

[00:03:44.900] - Karen

Yeah, actually, that would be my top tip. Actually, just to take away from all of this is plan. We had a spreadsheet going, and like I'm talking to you, a lot of tips previously about this, but we had a spreadsheet plan, what we were going to do because we had a lot of people to see, a lot of places we wanted to go because our kids, we've got three kids and when we moved, they were four, four and two, so they didn't really remember any of the UK. We really wanted them to go back and experience it and see some of the places that we love so now they're 12, 12 and 10.

[00:04:17.890] - Tracy  
I should say they're twins.

[00:04:21.020] - Karen  
Yeah. And obviously, travelling with kids adds a different dimension to everything, especially for my three kids. They all get travel sick and they don't like traveling for too long and they get bored really quickly and they fight in cars and all of that fun stuff goes with kids if you're on the road for too long doing too much stuff. So you're balancing it out between seeing people traveling, allowing some rest time and some downtime where you're not doing very much in between just to decompress a little bit and just calm down. So yeah, there's so much to fit in.

[00:04:54.420] - Tracy  
I'm just going to jump in there actually and ask a question because you mentioned something that's really interesting because obviously it's a long flight, the long flights back from particularly Australia over to the UK. So traveling with three kids. So have you got any tips that you'd share with anybody who's planning to fly, whether it's from the States because they're still talking six seven, eight, nine hours. Or from Australia, we were talking 23 hours. I say that and cringe. But how did you prepare the kids for that length of flight? And did they take specific backpacks each or how did it work?

[00:05:29.440] - Karen  
Yeah. Well, we were traveling in a different system. We were traveling on stand-by flights, which meant we all knew that there was a good chance that most of us would be split up while on the plane because we were taking last minute seats, which adds a little bit of extra stress. Yeah, you could say that. So yeah, we were traveling in a different way to what the majority of people were travelling. So if you know you're all going to be sitting together, but we knew that there was a chance for the car. And actually, my daughter and I, who's 10, sat together on all the flights, but everyone else was scattered around a little bit on the plane. So it was the first time the kids really remembered going on a plane as well. So it was all a bit new to them. So we talked to them about the experience of going on a plane, how it works, what food you're offered and how to accept it, even if you're not hungry, just so that they could pick up some of the food and see what they liked, because I knew that our kids would probably just say, no, we're fine and then 10 minutes later, you're hungry again. Whereas if they've got the food, they can take it, get a biscuit, or keep what they want and not eat. They don't have to eat all of it.

[00:06:29.410] - Tracy  
Yeah, it's a good idea.

[00:06:30.860] - Karen  
We did things at the airport. We made sure we had food before we got on the plane because airline food is never the best. We made sure that everyone had a bottle of water that we bought at the airport after we'd gone through security so that we all have plenty of drink with us. We didn't have to keep waiting for the little cup that gets filled regularly. But you just always might need a little bit of drink in between the servicing of the drinks on the plane. We made sure that when we were at the airport we were able walk around as much as we could to burn off a bit of energy and just get a bit of the adrenaline burned off before we got on the plane. We made sure everyone had their own bags and that they all knew what was in their bags and how they could access stuff. So things like antibacterial wipes that they might need for their hands, or a jumper, or a change of clothes. And as I say, my kids tend to get travel sick. My daughter gets really travel sick. So I was with her all the time, but we made sure that we travelled with extra sick bags, extra vomit bags, because they give you one on the plane, but that was not enough for her, unfortunately.

[00:07:36.360] - Karen  
She had travel wristbands. We did travel sick tablets as well. And yeah, she was quite poor. But towards the end of the flights, so she managed to last most of it. But yeah, we made sure that they knew how to work the TVs on the seats. So when we all got sat down on the plane, my husband and I would take turns walking around the kids to make sure they were okay, make sure they knew what they were doing, that they got headphones and that they were all set, that they knew where we were

sitting so they didn't have any questions. But yeah, it was just preparing them for what to expect, really. I think it helped. And they 24-hour like to sit and watching a movie for a long time, especially on the way back because one of the things that we did in London was go to Harry Potter Studios. And my twins hated Harry Potter before we went there. I'm sure we'll talk about this in a minute. But they really enjoyed going to the studios. When we flew home, they spent the whole 24 hours flight just watching Harry Potter movies. That was great.

[00:08:36.180] - Tracy

Brilliant. Absolutely brilliant. And then how did you deal with jet lag with the kids? Obviously, that again is a huge problem for us from Australia. And somebody asked us the other day actually about that. And I was like, main thing I try to do is slot straight into the time zone. But it's difficult enough as an adult to try and keep yourself awake. But how did you manage with the kids with that?

[00:08:55.260] - Karen

They were amazing on the way over to the UK because we landed and met up with their grandparents who they haven't seen for probably four years since COVID struck. And they met two of their little cousins, and one of them was for the first time. And the other one was just a baby when we left. And their aunties and uncles, and they were just buzzing. And it was actually Matt and I that were really exhausted. We were really trying to keep ourselves awake and they were like, can we go to the park?

[00:09:24.800] - Tracy

That's brilliant. That's really good. They were still ready to go.

[00:09:29.440] - Karen

We did have a couple of days where we all felt a bit sleepy in the afternoon. And actually, Matt and I had a few afternoon naps the first couple of days. But the kids didn't. They just went right through.

[00:09:40.990] - Tracy

Wow.

[00:09:41.290] - Karen

They were amazing and just settled in. On the way back, it was different. We really struggled on the way back to Australia. That's a good two weeks result to settle back in.

[00:09:49.720] - Tracy

Not as much excitement coming back to Australia and go back to school.

[00:09:52.330] - Karen

No, exactly. Because they had school a few days later and we got delayed as well at the airport on the way back. So we ended up taking a really long time to come home. And I think that really hit us hard. But yeah, trying to just get back into the hours that you're now in, getting out in daylight, all those things, lots of water, avoid alcohol, those things help a little bit, but just resting when you need to, I think. You will hit a brick wall in the afternoon at two, three o'clock. You just have to accept that and then just not plan too much in the first two days as well. The day we actually landed, the Queen passed away. So that happened. So that was quite a change to everything because my husband's, sister and brother in law were both in the police and it changed some of the dynamics of what they were going to be working on and the availability that they were going to have. And also we were planning a trip to London a few days later, which it shifted things. You have to change things a little bit.

[00:10:55.600] - Tracy

So do you want to talk us through your itinerary?

[00:10:59.250] - Karen

Yeah. So we landed in London and then we stayed as a base for a couple of weeks on Hayling Island in Hampshire, which is where my inlaws all live. It's just like a little island that's attached to the mainland by a single road. And it was just the base where we were staying with family for the two

weeks. But it gave us a place to go and explore from. We were near Portsmouth, so we did some trips out. There was the historic dockyards, which unfortunately I missed because one of the kids was sick. I did miss that one. But the kids that did go had an amazing time and said that was fantastic. They still talk about that.

[00:11:35.500] - Tracy

It's absolutely fantastic. I try to encourage anybody to add that in. Just going to see the Mary Rose is just stunning. Just absolutely stunning. The way they've done that is fantastic. We spent a good, probably most of the morning, if not into the afternoon, I think, exploring there. So definitely a really good place to go and visit.

[00:11:55.600] - Karen

And it kept two 12 year olds entertained. Two 12 year old boys that don't love to go around the museums. They enjoyed it.

[00:12:02.050] - Tracy

Oh, because it's so good. It's really good. So interactive. Very well done, definitely. And what else did you do in Portsmouth?

[00:12:09.120] - Karen

So we went to Gunwharf Quays, which is a big shopping complex that was built a few years ago. It's a really nice clean designer outlet place, which we went there just to hang out and meet people and have drinks and things, which was nice. And we went to the Spinnaker Tower, which again, I missed that one due to having a sick kid because as I say, my daughter, when we arrived, she was pretty sick for a couple of days after the travel as well, because it takes the body a little bit of time to settle in. So again, half the family went up the Spinnaker Tower and had a lot of fun doing that. They really enjoyed it.

[00:12:39.020] - Tracy

I've not actually been up, but I think I might do that this year.

[00:12:41.060] - Karen

There's a glass pail you can lay on. So we've got some great pictures of the boys laying sprawled out on this glass.

[00:12:46.490] - Tracy

I'm not sure I would. No, I don't think I'll be doing that one.

[00:12:48.840] - Tracy

We also visited my favourite place around the area, which is the New Forest. I don't know if you've got any of the New Forest in your next itinerary, but it's so beautiful. It's so lovely.

[00:13:02.360] - Tracy

I haven't but you never know.

[00:13:06.000] - Karen

In the New Forest, you've got New Forest ponies that are just wandering around the streets, and you've got these really quaint, really beautiful little villages, and it's just gorgeous and I love it. We went to the Beulieu Motor Museum there, which was good fun for an afternoon out, and we went to Rockenharts, which is a really lovely little village and a nice place with pubs and a little stream running through it, and just a nice little quaint place to go for a day out. We had a few days in London. So the kids obviously, being now in Australia, they learn about places in the UK. So they knew a lot of places in London that they were really keen to go and explore and we got them involved ahead of time to have a look online and have a look at your site and things like that to try and plan what it was that they wanted to do in London. Due to the cost of going to London and being in London with five of us, we didn't stay for too long, but we could have easily stayed for a full week in London and still had so much to do.

[00:14:06.710] - Karen

We barely scratched the surface, but we had two nights and we went with a family of nine of us, including five kids under 12. So it was a little bit chaotic.

[00:14:17.200] - Tracy

I can imagine.

[00:14:20.310] - Karen

As I say, we got the train there. I think we might be talking about trains and getting around in a little bit. So I'll come back to that soon. But yeah, we got the train to London. The first day, we got the bus from Victoria to Harry Potter Studios. We booked the bus tour thing because we thought that was going to be easier with all of the kids. And we booked the ticket into Harry Potter Studios for the later afternoon. I think it was about three o'clockish entry. We booked it a good probably two to three weeks ahead of time, but tickets were booking out early. So I would definitely say the earlier you can the better.

[00:15:00.490] - Tracy

Absolutely. For Harry Potter.

[00:15:01.800] - Karen

I looked on the website and it said you only need four hours or three hours to do Harry Potter Studios. We could have stayed there an entire day. I regretted booking the bus tour in the end. I wish we'd hopped on the train. I know it was a change or two.

[00:15:19.040] - Tracy

The train is really easy. It's just you stand up to Watford Junction and then outside the train station, you turn left and there's actually the Harry Potter bus and it's free. So you just jump on the bus and that takes you. And then you're not restricted for time because you can do exactly the same when you come out of studio. The regular buses take you back to Watford Junction and then get you straight back to Houston.

[00:15:38.860] - Karen

And with us booking the late afternoon slot, it was a bit like the little us kids coming back. And we had to catch the last bus back because we were on this the bus ticket. And it was time that we had to be on a certain bus. And it was quite late at night. And it would have given us so much more flexibility if we'd rearranged our itinerary a little bit so we could have done this on the day we had a free day. Obviously, we drove from Hayling Island to Havant and then got trained from Havant to London. So that took up quite a lot of the day.

[00:16:14.280] - Karen

And we did Harry Potter in the afternoon after it. So I wish we'd cleared the day and done a clear day at Harry Potter because my daughter is Harry Potter's biggest fan. So we rushed around the studio tour so she could have enough time in the shop because I knew that she would just freak out in the shop by how big it was and how much stuff she wanted to buy. And she did buy things. And so we needed at least an hour in the shop at the end and ideally more time. Yes. So Harry Potter, just absolutely amazing. My boys don't like Harry Potter, came home loving Harry Potter. Now they're reading Harry Potter and they've watched all the movies and they absolutely love it. But it really transformed it. And just it's one of the best days that we had in the UK.

[00:16:57.180] - Tracy

That's brilliant.

[00:16:57.970] - Karen

Really good value and providing you don't buy every single photo that they try and sell for your kids and they're doing every little thing. They add up really quickly. But the main entry thing, expensive. So we did Harry Potter, we did the next day, we did the Natural History Museum, which was a lot of fun.

Again, we barely scratched the surface, but with the little kids, we could only walk around it for so many hours before we'd all lost the will to live a little bit. We just needed to go to Hyde Park to look at some squirrels, which was one of my kids favourite things was seeing squirrels because obviously in Australia, you don't have squirrels. And they were just fascinated by the fact that there were squirrels that would come up to you.

[00:17:39.500] - Tracy

I have to say about the Natural History Museum, I think it's a rite of passage of every child in the UK to actually visit the Natural History Museum at some point in childhood. Everybody, in your childhood, you have to go to the Natural History Museum.

[00:17:50.750] - Karen

It's a great place to go, though. It's a huge museum, so don't try and do all of it, but it's really good fun. Then obviously, just back to while we were in London was the week just after the Queen had passed away. So it was really busy. Loads of roads were closed. It changed lots of plans. We did catch the big bus tour, but it was quite slow going because of detours and different issues. But obviously, other people won't have that issue. It was just that we happened to be there at quite a historic time. So that added a lot of atmosphere for sure to the experience. But yeah, the big bus tour was really good and we really loved doing the Thames River cruise. That was really good fun too. So yeah, we could have stayed in London for so much longer. There was so much we wanted to do. But two nights really was a big chunk of our budget with all the different things with so many of us. So yeah, then we came back to Hayling Island again. After a few more days there, we went on to Cornwall.

[00:18:48.120] - Karen

Now, Cornwall is the holiday destination in the UK. It's somewhere that my husband went every year growing up on holiday. It's somewhere I loved going for holidays. So we actually went for a little mini holiday between family and friends just so we could have a bit of time on our own, just the five of us just to explore a little bit and show them around some of the places that we really loved. So we went to St Ives, which is really beautiful, very busy, but very beautiful. We went to Perranporth, which is a lovely little beach town. There's not a lot there, but a beautiful beach. The kids were in awe of how much Australian beaches it felt like, but it was freezing cold.

[00:19:30.170] - Tracy

It was going to say a bit colder, maybe.

[00:19:32.460] - Karen

So we had our big coats on, but it was good fun. Then we went to St Agnes, which is another really cute little village with a few quaint shops and things. And that is the place where my husband swears has the best Cornish pasties in the world. And my kids swear has the best sausage rolls in the world. It's these massive sausage rolls. And I like the cream teas from there too. So that's St Agnes bakery was a hit. And then I know I've mentioned this in your group before, but there's a little place called Chapel Porth. And there's a little hut with a cafe, and they sell tea, coffee and ice creams. But you can get something called a hedgehog ice cream from there. And that is an ice cream, a Cornish ice cream in a cone with a big dollop of Cornish clotted cream on top. And it's rolled in roast hazel nuts. And it's just the best thing in the world. But only drive down there if you're very brave because you have to get down to the beach where it is. It's a really narrow single track. There's only room for one vehicle. So if there's a car coming up and you're coming down, there's only a few passing points on the way down. And it's so steep and it's so scary. My husband has grown up on Cornish roads on holidays, so he's used to it. But the rest of us had our hands over our eyes. My daughter just thought he was lying. She didn't believe it was a two way road. She was like, no way is this a two way road? But it was...

[00:21:08.730] - Tracy

It's just a one way, just one way down and you had it come up a different way.

[00:21:12.010] - Karen

If I cars are coming I do not know what you'd do because there aren't that many passing tracks. But yeah, driving in Cornwall can be a bit hairy anyway. But driving down to Chapel Porth is something you

should only do if you're feeling very brave and ideally not in a campervan or a motorhome. Because my husband did talk at one point about hiring a motorhome to go down. And then I pointed out how narrow the roads are in Cornwall and it's not the best.

[00:21:35.230] - Tracy

No, I don't think I'd want to do that either. I have to say when we were in Cornwall last year, Doug had the job of just driving when we were down there. He drove. I didn't do any of the driving. In Scotland, I did some driving, but Cornwall, I was like, no, you can do the driving.

[00:21:48.180] - Karen

We followed the advice of some people in your group, I think it was, that said, in St Ives, we stayed at a holiday park just outside St Ives and we got the bus. Yes. And I'm so glad we did because Matt's got nerves of steel with driving, but even he was like, whoa, St Ives is another level.

[00:22:05.940] - Tracy

Don't try and drive. No. We recommend parking a car at St Earth. If you want to catch the train, just catch the train in from St Earth. It's actually a lovely picturesque little train ride in St Ives. And then you're not worrying about trying to drive or park in St Ives. That's a good tip. And I'm going to add that Saint Agnes bakery. I don't want to drive down it, but I'll add it to my itinerary.

[00:22:28.760] - Karen

Yeah, it is good. I'll have to see if we've got any photographs.

[00:22:32.700] - Tracy

Yes, that'd be good. Then you headed up north after that, didn't you?

[00:22:36.150] - Karen

Then after a few days of break, we went up Sheffield. I was born in Sheffield and then I grew up in Lincoln about an hour away. And then when I then I moved back to Sheffield in my 20s. Then I moved down South to Hampshire when I met my husband. So we've lived around and about in a few places. But yeah, I lived and worked in Sheffield in my 20s, early 20s. I've got family there. And as I say, it was where I was born and my ancestors go back generations and generations there. So I wanted to go back really to have a bit of a look around my old haunts when I lived there, but also to do a bit more ancestry research as well as to visit some of our family who are still there as well. And it was really good fun. Sheffield's got a Cathedral. It's not a Cathedral like some of the other cathedrals. It's pretty, but it's not Lincoln Cathedral, which I'll talk about in a few minutes. Lincoln Cathedral is my favourite Cathedral in the UK. So we went around the Cathedral there and we went around, just had a quick walk around some of the galleries and there's winter gardens.

[00:23:39.820] - Karen

And there's a beautiful theatre square in Sheffield where you've got the Lyceum and the crucible, which just Sheffield's really good for arts. And that's what I used to love about living there. There's loads of festivals happen. It's really, really vibrant, loads of cool places to eat. It's a really, it's a it's got a really vibrant edge to it, Sheffield, and I love it. But we didn't get a lot of time there, unfortunately. It was a bit of a whistle stop for. We just had a bit of a walk around looking at places that some of my ancestors had got married and been christened. And then we went to a cemetery there. Sheffield's got a huge, huge cemetery. And I remember it from being a kid going to family funerals and things. It's this big cemetery on a hill, and it just seems to go on and on forever. I'm very lucky in that in Sheffield, there's a really good grave registry that you can look at to look up graves of people that helped me a lot when I was doing my Ancestry through Find My Past and Ancestry.Com, where you can look up graves and you can see people who are similar to that name in the same grave, or people who are buried nearby, and all different information like that.

[00:24:57.060] - Karen

So actually, the grave registry has really helped me piece in together my family tree, which is really good because my family tree stopped on my dad's side at my granddad because he didn't know anything more about my granddad's history. He thought he was an orphan, but actually his history

goes back long beyond that. He was in a workhouse and his mum put him in a workhouse and he had all these siblings that we didn't know about and all of this fascinating history. So for us, Sheffield was a bit of exploring for me about... I wanted to see some of the graves of some of the ancestors that we just discovered. So we went to the actual cemetery office and took the information we'd got and they were able to print off some maps of this huge cemetery so we could walk around and see where people were buried. So I found that really fascinating. It was really interesting to go and have a look around. I know a lot of people like to go there.

[00:25:53.010] - Tracy

It's fascinating actually. It's something because I've been doing my family tree. So I've got, on my father's side, Irish and Scottish, not too far back, I was just talking great grandparents. And on my mother's side, it's Cornish actually, Derbyshire and then also the North East. So I'm actually hoping to do a little bit of the same when I'm back, actually probably in the North East, probably just a few generations back from my great grandparents, but certainly try and do a little bit of that and also track a little bit of the Irish and Scottish ancestry as well. Yes, it's a fascinating thing to do. And I know I'm sure that many of our listeners who are living around the world who are doing the same, trying to track back their ancestors from Scotland, England, Wales, or Ireland. Yes, it's good to do that. It's a very interesting thing to do.

[00:26:41.610] - Karen

It's interesting to travel around, walking around in Sheffield with the kids to places that don't exist anymore. But this was where generations of our family lived on these streets in these neighbourhoods. Now it's all very different. But it was just really interesting to walk in the same places. And it was something that I didn't really get into when I actually lived in Sheffield. But I got into when I moved over to Australia and just found out how... Sheffield for me was the location. So it made it really easy because everyone was in that location. Going back through my mum's family and my dad's family.

[00:27:16.580] - Tracy

As well. That's easier for you. Mine are all over. Maybe we're just wanderers.

[00:27:21.500] - Karen

Which you could still, you could go on a whole tour during your day. It can take a lot of time. So we had to just narrow down. We knew we were going to Sheffield, so we had to do it on an afternoon in between different trips. So it can definitely eat up your time. We didn't have time to do my husband's ancestry. He was all Manchester and cotton mills and all that sort of thing. So that will have to wait for another trip. And then we went on to Lincoln for a couple of weeks, which, as I say, that's where I grew up, and it's where my mum and dad live and one of my brothers still lives there. So that was really good fun. We got to go with a lot of people. And Lincoln itself as a city is such a pretty city and it tends to not be on people's itinerary. But in my opinion, it is the most beautiful Cathedral in the UK. I think it's absolutely gorgeous. And if you do go to the Cathedral, something you need to look out for is the Lincoln imp, which is a little figure that is hiding within the Cathedral somewhere up high that you have to look around. It's just like a little imp figure. There's a story that goes along with it that he was being naughty and he was cast up there and turned to stone. But that really got the kids excited looking around the Cathedral because they couldn't stop looking for this imp. And then somebody saw them looking and pointed it to them straight away so they had a bit disappointed. So if you go and have a look around, anyone who's there from the area will generally know where to find it. But it is quite hard to see. It's a big stone Cathedral with lots of intricate carvings and different things. And you've got to find this little imp there. But we had half a day looking around the Cathedral, which was gorgeous. Then we went across the walkway just to the Castle. So they're literally next to each other and they make a great day out together. And the Castle is really good fun because you can walk on the Castle walls and walk all around it. You get a great view of the Cathedral, really beautiful view of Lincoln City. It's really pretty to do. And then you've got a copy of the Magna Carta there, so you can go and have a look at that. And also in Lincoln Cathedral... Sorry, Lincoln Castle during the summer, they sometimes have different shows and events on. They'll have Shakespeare productions. My mum went to see Cliff Richard performing there once before. They have live music and different events on and things. So if you're planning it in the summer, you might be able to go along to a summer event.

Or they sometimes have reenactments and things on there as well, which is good fun. Now, you want to talk a little bit about?

[00:29:58.740] - Tracy

Well, I was actually going to say, you'll be happy to hear I am actually going to Lincoln. So we'll be going to. So if you're in the Facebook group and look out on the website, there will be some information coming about Lincoln. I actually have, I think I'm not sure if I published it, but I have a Lincoln travel guide, which has got an overview and information. But yes, I've been to Lincoln before a few times, but it was Lincoln, Oxford. There were a few places last year that we didn't get to. Oxford was another one that I top of my list. Cardiff was another one that I top of my list this year to make sure that I do it too. So I will be going to Lincoln. Then you went to Skegness, which I'm fascinated by. So I last went to Skegness, I have to say, in 1976. So I won't tell you my exact age, but put it this way, I was under 10. And it was the year that was lady birds. I just remember lots of lady birds. So you took the kids to Butlins?

[00:30:48.450] - Karen

Yes. So I grew up in Lincoln, which is about an hour from the Coast. So the nearest Coast really is Skegness, fondly known as Skeggy or Skeg. It's a really cheesy seaside town. It's not the most beautiful place in the world. It's really not. But it was the nearest beach. And when you're a kid and you don't live by the beach, go and see the sea, it was really exciting. So it was more nostalgic that I really wanted to go there. It's quite funny to go back.

[00:31:14.600] - Tracy

But the what did your kids think of it? I have to ask you.

[00:31:18.740] - Karen

Did you see the photograph? I'll have to share the photograph. They looked a bit cold. They were freezing. I don't know what happened. The week we got the Skegness, it was the coldest week ever. We had these big coats on. It was freezing. It rained all the time. It was proper northern cold weather. When you're traveling in the UK, you do notice a big divide between the Southern weather and the Northern weather. And Skegness definitely had the northern weather.

[00:31:42.580] - Tracy

I just have to jump in there because I love the fact that you say, big coat, you had your big coat on. Because that's it. It's a really good way of big coat. So your big coat would be what you'd wear in the winter. So actually thick, like, bigger coat, rather than just needing a jacket or something. You need your big coat on because it's cold. So when you said that before, I was like, Oh, I haven't heard that for a while. Big coat.

[00:32:04.980] - Karen

Talking about coats, a little bit, what we did was we bought hiking type coats that had a fleece liner in them. So we could wear either the fleece liner or the black out of coverage or put them together. And in Skegness, we have both of them together. And in Skegness, we had both of them together because it was cold. But you were mentioning it. I think that is a unique to the UK experience. It's a caravan park type style accommodation resort that's got everything for kids in it. So it's really for primary school kids. How do I explain it? So you've got chalets, you've got caravans, you've got apartments all on sites with a big resort that's got different stages where they have, like, Barney the dinosaur.

[00:32:55.660] - Tracy

So if anybody's watched Hi De Hi, the TV show. That's a pretty good example of... I think that's set in the 50s, isn't it? Hi De Hi. So that was what it was like because in the 40s and 50s, after the war in the late 40s and 50s, going to parks like that was really popular because people weren't going abroad and have the money. And it was a really good way to travel around the UK and take your kids somewhere that they could enjoy lots of kids stuff on. And so I remember 1976 when we went and it was good fun. It was really good fun.

[00:33:29.520] - Karen

It is. They have a packed programme of entertainment. And actually, even as a teenager, I went for my first girl's holiday when I was 17 to Butlins! So it's got this balance between having a bit of fun at night thing. And obviously it's mainly a kid's resort, really. But yeah, they have red coats. So like the yellow coats in Hi De Hi red coats of Butlins. And they lead all the entertainment and they've got a little onsite fairground. And when you've got your pass to go in, that's it. You don't have to pay for anything other than the in tonnes of food and sweets and lollies and endless supply of sugar that you need to keep feeding your kids with. They've got really good water park. So they've got a really good indoor swimming pool with slides. So even though my kids were a little bit older, they spent three hours at least of every day just on the water slides, having the best time, and they absolutely loved it. And it was really good fun. And the older ones remembered it from when they were kids. They wanted to go back and they now don't understand why in Australia we don't have.

[00:34:34.080] - Tracy  
Oh, really?

[00:34:34.540] - Karen  
They love it. They want to go back.

[00:34:36.310] - Tracy  
There's an opportunity for Butlins then.

[00:34:37.840] - Karen  
Yeah, that was our tour, really. We just toured around all those places, visiting people, meeting lots of people in lots of pubs. That seemed to be a bit of a challenge.

[00:34:47.260] - Tracy  
Yes, I saw lots of photos of it.

[00:34:49.600] - Karen  
Just because it was easy locations to meet up with groups.

[00:34:52.300] - Tracy  
Absolutely. And also take the kids as well, because you can have them if you're in the garden. Would you be sat in the gardens or was it a bit chillier?

[00:34:58.060] - Karen  
It was a mix. We tried to find places that had somewhere for the kids to hang out so they wouldn't be too bored. So especially if we were going with meeting groups of kids, we found places that got a beer garden because even with a jacket on, the kids could still have fun playing in the playground.

[00:35:13.160] - Tracy  
Oh, that's good. So I know when we talked for the episode that year in episode 14, when we talked about my and Doug's trip back, there was things that we had to cut out because we didn't have time. Like Oxford, for example, which I was really upset about because I love Oxford. But I know there was a few things you had to put out because you didn't have time. So what did you end up dropping from the schedule?

[00:35:35.500] - Karen  
Yeah, well, it's hard. And I think because traffic can get busy and things, so that can also knock you out. So on the day we drove from Hayling Island to Cornwall, we were going to stop at Stonehenge, but we got stuck in the roadworks and it put three hours on our journey. It was insane. So we had to cut Stonehenge out. That was a bit of shame. It would have been nice to have seen that. And we also cut out Winchester, we just didn't have the days clear in schedule. And we realised quickly we needed some downtime days out. The kids just needed it.

[00:36:08.500] - Tracy  
I can imagine because it can be full on if you're going from place to place to place. And even as

adults, we found that it was like, we did build in a few days here and there where we weren't doing anything. And also because sometimes you don't appreciate it as much when you're just trying to get a culture overload or festival overload or a city overload or museum overload. And it's like, I don't want to... For example, I think Doug, by the time I got to the V and A, he had switched off. Well, I could have spent the entire day. And guess what? I am going to spend the entire day in the V and A because I'm good on my own. So to really enjoy that, yeah. And I think sometimes you just need to do that. You just need to go, Okay, I can't fit it in this time. And that's it. I am going to go to Winchester.

[00:36:51.300] - Karen

Winchester would have been so much fun to go and have a look around. But yeah, we just can't. To Chichester would have been nice. There were places that we knew from when we lived there that would have been good. We just didn't have the time. Somewhere that I forgot to add that we did go that I forgot to mention to you was Sherwood Forest. Because I thought that was quite a fascinating one for the kids because the kids had heard of Robin Hood and I thought it's a nice outdoor attraction for them to run around in. We managed to squeeze that in and have coffee with some friends there and have a walk around as well. So that was really fun just to go and see the Major Oak and just take a little bit about that.

[00:37:25.640] - Tracy

So then how did you get around? So obviously, six weeks is quite a long time. I know last year we hired a car three times and we took the train a lot of times and we had looked into borrowing a car off some friends, but when they spoke to the insurance company, it was really expensive. But this was something that you managed to do. So that'd be interesting to talk through.

[00:37:48.260] - Karen

Obviously, I'm in lots of groups about helping people move to Australia. So a lot of people do go back, like we have for a longer trip. So I've been watching people in these groups for a long time saying they weren't able to get insured on their family's car and it was going to cost a fortune. And so we were quite worried about it. We've got family in all different places, so we were confident we could get a car to borrow. It was just the insurance side of things. So we got my brother and my father in law both to check if they had to ring their insurance and just check. They needed information like our driving license number and age and whether we got any points on our license or not. And they were both able to insurance on their vehicles for minimal money. It was a few dollars, less than \$50 for the trip. So we ended up borrowing my father in law's car, luckily for the whole time and just drove around in that. But I think if they were to have phoned up and found out it was really expensive, I think there might be an option to look for a third party insurer to insure you on that vehicle independently. So that was going to be the next option I would have looked at because hiring a car for six weeks would have been a lot. And because we were based a bit more rurally, we were just on the outskirts of Lincoln and on the outskirts of... We were in Hayling Island, which isn't the most accessible place. We knew we needed a car for the majority of the time. So yeah, we had a car. But that doesn't mean that you should use a car everywhere because, like we said, there's a lot of places where it's not worth travelling by car, or it's really difficult to, or it's actually a lot cheaper to not have to. There were places we did park and ride in big cities. When we went into Lincoln, Lincoln can get quite busy parking in the city is really expensive. So we found park and rides. Lincoln is split into uphill and downhill areas. Uphill, which is where the Cathedral and the Castle are, we found a really great park and ride at a supermarket that we just parked at, paid a minimal fee, and got a round trip on the bus. And it was so easy but my only tip with park and rides is to make a note of the last bus back because we almost missed the last bus back by assuming you could just stop and have dinner in the city and that. But the last bus back stopped at half five, six o'clock.

[00:40:03.650] - Tracy

Oh, really? Okay.

[00:40:04.390] - Karen

So just be aware of what the times that the park and ride one. And we did parking ride in Portsmouth as well.

[00:40:10.760] - Tracy

I know we did it in Stirling. You can do it in Durham. There's so many cities now that have got park and ride because they actually want you to keep the car out of the centre of the city because it's just too busy. And I think I've got an app actually, I'll list that as well so you can check. But if you're planning to go to any of the cities or in your driving and you're doing a road trip, is check. And if you can park outside the city and do the parking, it just makes life so much easier because you really do not want to be driving around trying to get parked. And sometimes you just can't, but often you can't get parked.

[00:40:41.620] - Karen

No. And things like Sheffield, we drove to the hotel, just left our car there because the good thing about the UK is if you're somewhere central in your hotel, you can walk a lot of places. So we just explored Sheffield on foot. We went all over the place just walking around on foot and we didn't really need the car at all. They've got a really good tram system in Sheffield, lots of buses and it's just very easy to just walk around. And also Uber. There were times I was saying earlier on, that my 10 year old daughter just sat down and said, My legs hurt, I'm not walking anymore. And the hotel was 20 minutes walk away. So we were like, well, let's just call an Uber. And it's the same app that you use in your country. You just call an Uber and you're home.

[00:41:23.510] - Tracy

Very easy. I know you talked to Doug about the trains. I think you might have contacted them when you were over there, actually, to ask him about the trains. So you were impacted by the strikes?

[00:41:34.070] - Karen

Yes, we were. I used to travel a lot by train when I lived in the UK. I used to go to work every day on the train. I used to travel across the country because I didn't really drive in the UK. So it was just everything so accessible over there, so I didn't really need to drive. So we knew that when we went to London, we were going to travel by train. We knew the different trips we wanted to do by train. And we looked in advance on trainline. Com and were able to book. From Havant to London, I think it cost us something like, can't remember now, it's really silly, like £8 or something each one way. But it was just by booking in advance and just getting the really cheap and flexible tickets, we knew we were going to catch that train. Our plans weren't going to change regarding London because we booked Harry Potter Studios, we've got tours locked in and things. So we locked those in probably at the same time as booking the tickets for things in London. We booked it all on the same evening and we got some really good deals. But then strikes got announced a week later. So then I remember reaching out to Doug, going, Doug, what do we do? And we were able to go online and check, first of all, that we could get National Express coach tickets to London and back. Actually, no, it was only returning that it was an issue, I think. Anyway, we got National Express tickets. They were more expensive, which was a bit frustrating. And then the Queen passed away and then they cancelled the strike. Then I tried to cancel the National Express tickets and rebook the train because with nine of us traveling, it was going to be quite an expensive extra. But we couldn't cancel the National Express then, which was really frustrating. So we had to come back by National Express. But it was actually really nice because we'd had a really long time in London and it was much nicer traveling on a coach where you've got your own seat and you can sit and just relax and it was just quieter. And the kids all went straight to sleep in the bus and it was easier than looking around on a busy train anyway. So it was fine. But it worked out just keeping an eye on when the strikes are and just knowing that you can change things. And it was.

[00:43:47.560] - Tracy

Also, I guess, easier for you, just think, because I used to take coaches all the time in the 80s when I used to fly in the UK, is that you were going back because your coach trip from Harry Potter Studios, I don't know if it was the same day, but I'm just thinking, were you near Victoria Coach Station to catch the coach?

[00:44:01.800] - Karen

No, that was a different day. We ended up being able to get... In the end, now it's coming back to me, we were able to rebook a train to Victoria because they reinstated that day, that particular coach took

it. But we ended up doing the coach on the way back from London. And then that went into Portsmouth Harbour. So it made just a few changes around the journey home because we weren't coming back to Havant, we were going back somewhere different but it was easy. It all worked out. We had family coming to pick us up so it was fine. Or if you were hopping in an Uber, it didn't really make a difference. But it just keeping an eye on when the strikes are and knowing that you've got an option. If they announce strikes, you can cancel and look at other options.

[00:44:46.240] - Tracy

They have to announce 14 days before strike as well, which does give you some time to look at options.

[00:44:52.360] - Karen

I think it's still good to have pre booked things early because the deals were really good compared to the tickets on the day there were a lot more money. We did quite a few train trips. There were a few things that we couldn't do. I wanted to go to Sheffield on the train, but that was a strike day. We just couldn't work out a way to make it happen. So that's why we drove that day. So it's just been a bit adaptable, I think, really. And as I say, catching the bus where you can. And they're really friendly on the buses.

[00:45:18.420] - Karen

They tell you where to get off if you need to know. And especially in tourist areas, especially places like Cornwall, you can just ask the question, where can I get off? What can I do? How does it work? And they'll just tell you what the best, most affordable ticket is for the day for your group. So sometimes you'll find this family ticket available as well. So yeah, we did a bit of a mix of travelling around in different ways.

[00:45:42.010] - Tracy

Because obviously it was about eight years since you'd been back in the UK, so that's quite a while. So what surprised you? What changed? What was different? What were you not expecting?

[00:45:50.800] - Karen

For me, I think I expected it to feel really different. And actually, I just got back and it just felt like I just walked straight home again. It didn't feel very different at all, which was really strange. And you just instantly slipped into this old way of life. It's really funny. I forgot how big the huge supermarkets are, like the massive Asda's and the massive Sainsbury's that sell everything. And you just.

[00:46:13.020] - Tracy

Can spend all day in there. I do. I love going round the supermarket when I'm back. So just shop at Sainsbury's, I'll be here all day.

[00:46:21.360] - Karen

So that really shocked me. We just ended up spending a fortune on food while we were away. I think that was the biggest shock. Eating out was expensive. I found in some places, eating out in pounds was the same price as in dollars, if that makes sense. You were looking at something that was £18 on the menu in the UK, that would have been \$18 here in Australia. And that was a bit of a shock. There were some meals out for a family of five that we went for that there was a meal. However, we didn't have dessert and we shared a couple of starters and we managed to get a couple of the kids meals free because we were buying adults meals. And it was like \$250 for the family.

[00:47:05.370] - Tracy

For five of us. Wow. So about £125, would you say? Yeah, something like that. It's a lot, isn't it? Yeah, a bit more than that.

[00:47:11.270] - Karen

With exchange rates, it was a lot. And we wouldn't normally pay anything like that for a meal out for family here. But that was at my favourite restaurant, which is somewhere that I had to go back to because I'd really missed. We'd all got these little things that we were missing from the UK. And my

husband's food list was massive. He wanted to eat all the food. I just had this one restaurant that I wanted to go back to a few times called Damon's in Lincoln, and this one in Sheffield. And it's just a ribs restaurant. It's nothing fancy. It's just my favourite restaurant. I just love it. Nostalgic from going there as a kid.

[00:47:49.990] - Tracy  
I'll add that into my itinerary.

[00:47:51.920] - Karen  
You've got it. If you like barbecue ribs.

[00:47:53.430] - Tracy  
I do.

[00:47:53.760] - Karen  
It's a great place to get them. Budget for it, because they also do cocktails.

[00:47:58.020] - Tracy  
Oh, dear.

[00:47:58.390] - Tracy  
That's probably where our downfall of our budget went.

[00:48:00.860] - Tracy  
I can imagine. Because you mentioned food and I know your husband was really looking forward to eating lots of the foods when he went back. And we're going to record another podcast after this one actually talking about food. So this is getting us into the mood. I know I cannot wait to get back in there. So the first thing I will have will be Gammon Steak and chips because I absolutely love Gammon Steak. And then the following night, I will have scampi. So my mom knows exactly what she'll make for you. And then we'll probably eat out and have a carvery meal. So that's where you're going to have the meat and the vegetables. So those are the things. So what was it you were really looking forward to? What did you enjoy?

[00:48:39.530] - Karen  
Well, I really love food in Australia. And so there's not a lot I've missed here that I haven't been able to get here. We have got really good British fish and chip shops within an hour of where we live in Brisbane.

[00:48:52.880] - Tracy  
Do they do scampi? I don't know. Because I need to find that out.

[00:48:55.860] - Karen  
I don't know. Scampi. I don't know. But now I feel like I should try it. obviously it's all over. I know Matt eats it, but I don't eat it. I love it. But cod chips or haddock and chips, fish and chips, just to be able to just nip to a fish and chip shop anywhere and have amazing British fish and chips. Now, I will just say if you haven't had British fish and chips before, it's greasier. The chips are more oily. They're like hand cut chips, deep fried. They're not like frozen chips that you get at fish and chip shops if you're in Australia most of the time. It just tastes different because I know that quite often I'll see people complaining online in local groups about the British fish and chip shops in Australia saying that they're too greasy, but I think they miss the point of the fact that they're British fish and chip shops. British fish and chip shops, they're supposed to be greasy and they're really good. That's the thing that I really love being able to do, just nip the tip shop. Chinese takeaways and Indian takeaways, even though we have them in Australia, they're just different. They do different things. They do different... They're just different. They're really good. We were looking forward to that. So we had a couple of Chinese and there's a good Indian take away Matt was obsessed, like you with Gammon and ham and bacon because they don't do it the same here.

[00:50:14.400] - Tracy  
Or in the States. No.

[00:50:15.830] - Karen  
Sausages, Matt's obsessed with sausages. In Australia, they're not always pork sausages, they're mostly beef sausages.

[00:50:22.240] - Tracy  
Or chicken.

[00:50:24.080] - Karen  
Yeah. So Matt's obsessed with sausages, sausage rolls.

[00:50:27.740] - Tracy  
Bacon butties. Yeah, go to Greg's. We're going to talk about Greg's in the next one because I grew up with Greg's around the corner. So you go to Greg's and you get... I used to love their sausage baps. I'm going to use their sausage bap.

[00:50:43.700] - Karen  
So Reuben would get angry at me. My one of my boys would get angry if I don't mention cheese straws. He'd never had a cheese straw before. And because Matt spent his whole trip nipping into a baker's everywhere we went, he would always buy Reuben cheese straws. And he thought they were the best thing in the whole world. So yes, they were all those things. Donuts as well. We always tell the kids that donuts in Australia just aren't the same as the bag of donuts we used to just buy from Asda or Sainsbury's or the jam filled donuts that used to buy in a big bag. So yeah. The kids loved them. They enjoyed those.

[00:51:20.150] - Tracy  
I don't eat donuts, but what I have got on my list is lots of those Instagrammable places that everybody likes to go and eat in London for all the desserts and sweets. So I'm going to try some of those as much as I can anyway. When you went down to Cornwall, did you do the Cornish tea afternoon tip?

[00:51:39.170] - Karen  
We didn't go anywhere. We just bought them from lots of bagels and took them home to our accommodation. So you weren't controversial with the jam and cream thing? Well, no, there's no... Well, we are. Hang on, we have a different controversy in our family. You've got your scone. The controversy normally is whether you put jam or cream on first. And I don't think there's an argument about that. It's got to be jam first.

[00:52:01.360] - Tracy  
Yeah, I totally agree.

[00:52:03.080] - Karen  
The controversy is that my husband and one of my kids put butter on before the jam and then the cream. And I don't agree with that.

[00:52:12.320] - Tracy  
Oh, I don't know. I just go jam and cream. I don't know. I'm going to try that now and see what I'll get back to you on that one and let you know. What were the highlights of your trip? I guess, what were the things that you took with you when you came back? You went, Oh, wow.

[00:52:26.700] - Karen  
Well, for us, it was all about seeing family again and friends. And some of them we haven't obviously seen since we moved over here. So it was really lovely spending time with the kids great grandparents. It's really nice spending time with people who you know are going to be here forever and ever and just been able to spend that quality time with people. And that was really nice. We

adored Harry Potter Studios. That was a highlight. The Thames River Cruise, it's part of the Big Bus tour, was really good. One of my sons is really into architecture, so he really enjoyed doing that and seeing all the different buildings all the way along. Meeting up with so many school friends. I've got a best group of friends who have been friends with since I was 12, and they've all got kids who are similar ages, so we had lots of really good fun times getting together with them. So that was really great. So for us, it was about the people. But I really enjoyed going back around some iconic places like Lincoln Cathedral and the Castle and taking my kids around them and getting photographs of them, exploring these places that we really loved.

[00:53:28.740] - Tracy

I'm going to ask you I'm going to ask you the question that I ask everybody at the end of a podcast, but I want to put that obviously because you travel with your family and then three children. So if you were planning the trip again, I'm sure you obviously you'll be going back at some point. But if you were given one tip to anybody who's planning to travel to the UK who's got children, obviously, yours are nine and 13, 10 and.

[00:53:54.840] - Karen

Nine and 12. When we got there, they were.

[00:53:57.240] - Tracy

10 and 12. Yeah, 10 and 12. So 10 and then 13 now, so 10 and 12 at the time. So what tips would you give to anybody planning to visit with kids?

[00:54:06.900] - Karen

Try to break up journeys. So some of the drives that we did were long drives. So from Hayling Island to Cornwall, it's a long drive anyway. We planned on starting off early in the morning so the kids could sleep here and there. We planned in some things like McDonald's and things that they knew that they would enjoy in between so we could have a little break. But we also actually, on that long drive, we stopped at the place where we got married, which was just a bit of a random thing. We got married at a tiny little castle in Exeter. We didn't live near it, we just found it online and we got married there. And we've got these lovely photographs of us there. And when our twins were babies, we took them back there for a trip. So I got photographs of them there as babies. But it was really nice to go and take the kids there as older kids to walk around. It just broke up the journey a bit. So just if you can break up the journey somehow, whether it's a park playground, a meal, find something you can stop and do on the way so that you're not expecting to stay in a car for eight hours in a block. It's quite a long time to travel, trying to give them a bit of space from each other a little bit because three kids, especially when you're in a car. We've got a bigger car here so they don't all sit squashed in. But there we were in, there were just all three in the back seat of the car and it was a bit tight. So we were just trying to give them a bit of space, loads of snacks, take snacks everywhere, take drinks everywhere. Everyone gets hungry all the time. And just we built in probably more treats than we normally would, like stop for ice cream and things like that just to keep everyone a bit sweeter and everyone a bit happier. Now that we've done it, I did a blog post for my audience of families who might be traveling back to the UK for a trip. And I did a really big blog post where I listed everything that we planned in advance, everything we took in our hand luggage, everything we packed. And I've got that list now. So it will be 10 times easier next time I'm doing it because I'll be able to go through my checklist and just tick things off.

[00:56:13.660] - Tracy

Perfect. So we'll link to that in the show notes. So put a link to Karen's blog post. So if you're planning to travel the UK with your family, there you go. That'll be really handy. So I just want to say a big thanks to Karen for coming on to the podcast this week and sharing all about her trip and all the tips and how it went. It sounded like you had a really brilliant time. I did miss you when you were away. I was so pleased when you came back. But yeah, so thanks so much for coming on the podcast.

[00:56:42.080] - Karen

You're welcome. Thanks for having me. It's been really good fun. Yeah, we had such a good time and your resources are so useful when it comes to planning it all because eight years is a long time to

have not been back and so much has changed. Even though it felt like I was just going back home again, there was so much that I needed to learn about the trip. So that's been really useful.

[00:57:00.940] - Tracy

So thank you. Thanks, Karen. Again, just want to say huge thanks to Karen for joining me for this episode. It was great to catch up with her and chat about her trip around the UK. You can find everything we talked about in this episode, including links to the various places that Karen talked about in the show notes for this episode, which you can find at [uktravelplanning.com](http://uktravelplanning.com) forward slash episode 37. That just leaves me to say until next week, happy UK travel planning.