

## UK Travel Planning Podcast Episode 97 Transcript

Intro [00:00:03]:

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

Tracy Collins [00:00:42]:

Hi and welcome to episode 97 of the UK travel planning podcast. So this week's episode is part 2 of 2 episodes, which we started last week in episode 96, where we are focusing on easy day trips by train from London. So last week, we covered the first five destinations. If you haven't heard that episode, I suggest you go back and quickly take a listen to that. And then this week, we are continuing our journey from South London round to the west and northwest. We're having a bit of a discussion about Oxford just recently, but it's on a northwest of London. You would just say?

Doug Collins [00:01:21]:

Just north. Mostly west.

Tracy Collins [00:01:24]:

So Doug is with me again for this episode. So he's gonna share his knowledge of the train travel in the UK, which those of you who have his ebook guide to UK train travel will know is extremely extensive. So in this episode, we are gonna start with Portsmouth. So if you listened recently to episode 92 where you heard Kevin and Pauline chatting all about what to do and see in Portsmouth, And I know I have heard from so many of you via email and in our Facebook group that you are really inspired to go and visit Portsmouth, which we are really excited about. And many of you said you didn't realize just how easy it would be to get there and what there was to do and see in Portsmouth. So, Doug, if you're gonna go down Portsmouth, what is the best way, which train station, and how long would it take you to get there?

Doug Collins [00:02:15]:

Okay. So I'd go from Waterloo, London Waterloo, or Victoria, and the journey time between an hour and a half and 2 hours depending which train or which what time of day that you you travel. I I've done this journey myself. Last year, I had a day down in Portsmouth, and then the Isle of Wight as well, all in one day.

Tracy Collins [00:02:33]:

You did. And we actually have a podcast all about that, which I cannot remember for the life of me by the second, the number of that, but I will put that in the show notes. I'm also just gonna reiterate, which we we said last week, is that these train journeys were all chosen because they're easy train journeys for you to do. They literally what there's no change. It's just a one

Doug Collins [00:02:53]:

Just one train. So you catch this train from London, and you get off that train, same train at your destination.

Tracy Collins [00:02:59]:

And the destinations that we're talking about. Yes. So they're easy, and they're within 2 hours ish Yeah. Of London as well. So our next destination is Winchester. And we, again, we were in Winchester earlier on this year, actually. And second time that we visited the gorgeous city of Winchester. It is a beautiful city to visit.

Tracy Collins [00:03:20]:

I really enjoy it, and I know, again, it's a very easy day trip from London. So if you have an interest in history, Jane Austen, it's the place to go, honestly. And, so I don't know if I was gonna go to to Winchester from London. I'm staying in London. I've decided that's the place I wanna go visit on a day trip. Which is the best train station, and how long would it take me to get to Winchester? It

Doug Collins [00:03:41]:

yeah. It takes about 1 hour, and that's from London, Waterloo, or Paddington. And the train stations are about 10 minutes walk ish 10, 15 minutes walk to the cathedral.

Tracy Collins [00:03:50]:

Yes. And we yes. We just used Google Maps when we came out of the train station just to orientate ourselves. And then because the last time we actually went, we used the park and ride, so we parked and got the the bus into Winchester. So it's the last time we actually took the train. It was a short walk

Doug Collins [00:04:04]:

Yeah.

Tracy Collins [00:04:04]:

Into Winchester. Again, a lovely city to enjoy and walk around. The cathedral is obviously the the main focus, and that was certainly for me, and and it's just a stunning, stunning cathedral to visit. And it's also the final resting place of Jane Austen. So if you are a Jane Austen fan, do go and visit. And, and also, I mean, it's just a fantastic cathedral, isn't it?

Doug Collins [00:04:27]:

It is. And the the tour around the the cathedral is exemplary.

Tracy Collins [00:04:32]:

Yes. Exactly. Would definitely recommend that you do the tour. And also just to mention, if you like sculpture, there is Anthony Gormley's sound 2, which you can find in the crypt of Winchester Cathedral. Again, lovely city to visit. Highly recommend that you consider it if you have an interest in history. It is the cathedral that was built after William the conqueror took over after 10/66 after he, defeated Harold at

Doug Collins [00:04:59]:

Battle of Hastings. Perfect.

Tracy Collins [00:05:01]:

So that's our second destination.

Doug Collins [00:05:04]:

I should also add around Winchester Cathedral. There's some lovely cafes and restaurants.

Tracy Collins [00:05:08]:

Yes. There are. And, again, we have a Winchester travel guide that gives you some of that information so you can check that out on the website. So our 3rd destination is another very popular destination that we are asked about. And also it's a destination which will give you access to probably one of the most famous monuments in the entire world, and that is Stonehenge. So Salisbury is how far from London, Doug, and how long would it take you to get there? I mean, what sort of time scales are we talking and which train station would you take?

Doug Collins [00:05:38]:

Yeah. You go from London Waterloo for, Salisbury. It takes about an hour and 25 minutes.

Tracy Collins [00:05:43]:

So, again, really easy to get to. Now if you've gone to Salisbury and then you're thinking, actually, I wanna go to, Stonehenge, which we have done this, if you come outside the train station, there is a bus. And it's a tour company that will take you basically, you can buy either just the bus ticket to get you to Stonehenge and back. Or if you want, you can also buy your entry ticket to get into Stonehenge as well. So the last time we did it, we just picked up the bus. It's basically like a kinda hop on, hop off bus because it goes to a few locations in Salisbury, goes to Old Sarum as well, goes to Stonehenge. You can have your phones in and you can listen to the sites as you go along on the bus. So it's actually if you want to go to Stonehenge and you wanna do it independently, it's a really good way to do it.

Tracy Collins [00:06:28]:

And it's also I will just throw this in is if you're gonna be at Bath and you're thinking, oh, actually, maybe I'll head down to Salisbury front bath. That is actually also a very easy train journey to get you down there.

Doug Collins [00:06:39]:

That's right. Yeah. But we had our, baggage with us as well. Yes. At Salisbury. So we found a location to store our luggage outside Salisbury train station, which was very convenient.

Tracy Collins [00:06:49]:

Yes. It was. So, yeah, if you are traveling, you've got luggage, you know, that that there is a lot of these, not necessarily the train stations anymore, but there are left luggage places, that you can find in the vicinity of the train station. And this is exactly what we did for Salisbury and stored our luggage because we're heading off down Cornwall after that. So I'm gonna throw in Windsor into this, episode, but we're actually not gonna focus on Windsor. But we know that many of you wanna visit Windsor, and it is an easy day trip from London. However, I am doing a completely dedicated episode, which will be all about Windsor,

including how to get there from London by train, how to get around Windsor, what to see in Windsor. So I'm not gonna go into any details in this episode.

Tracy Collins [00:07:35]:

But do listen out because that would be out in the next month or 2, a kind of dedicated total episode to Windsor with all the knowledge that I've learned from visiting Windsor over the years and tips and things to know if you're gonna visit. So I'm gonna skip Windsor, and the next destination that we're gonna choose is again another popular destination. Probably one of the most, popular from London that we get asked about is Bath.

Doug Collins [00:07:56]:

Yes. That's right. Yeah. And it's an easy train journey from, London Paddington. Takes about an hour and 20 minutes with Great Western Railway, and it's beautiful. It's one of my favorites.

Tracy Collins [00:08:06]:

It is. And it's also you're in the center of Bathurst when when you arrive, so it's very easy to get out, walk out the train station, and just walk around basically beside the shops, shopping center, shops there. And there's lots of things to see in Bath, honestly. I've got a complete guide to visit in Bath. I've got a guide to things to do in Bath. I've actually got a one day itinerary as well. So if you're thinking, okay, let's go to Bath. We're just gonna go there for the day, and you're wondering about what to do, I would definitely have a look at our one day itinerary for bath because that'll give you basically what you can fit in and what you can see in one day when you visit there.

Tracy Collins [00:08:40]:

What what's your favorite things to do when you go to bath, Doug?

Doug Collins [00:08:43]:

I can't get past the Roman baths, to be honest with you. I'm damn times I've been going there from being very young. My parents took me there, and it's just magnificent.

Tracy Collins [00:08:52]:

Yeah. Absolutely. A 100%. If you're gonna go to visit Bath, you have to go into the Roman Baths. And now I will say they get extremely busy in the summer months and the school holiday times. So you will need to book ahead for the Roman baths if you wanna go.

Doug Collins [00:09:05]:

And allow plenty of time because there's such a lot to read.

Tracy Collins [00:09:08]:

Oh, such a lot to read, such a lot to see. They're absolutely fascinating. So now if you're gonna do that, our favorite place to go and have a bit of lunch is Sally Lunn's. We absolutely love to have Sally Lunn's bun. I would buns, I would highly recommend.

Doug Collins [00:09:20]:

Yes. We just had every meal there for

Tracy Collins [00:09:23]:

We have. I think I've tried everything on the menu. But my personal favorite when it comes to the the sweet with a cup of tea is to have Sally Lunns bun with lemon curd. Believe me, you cannot beat it. So I highly recommend it. There's some fantastic places to visit about some brilliant book shops. So if you like books, fantastic place to visit. Obviously the Georgian architecture of Bath is stunning.

Tracy Collins [00:09:44]:

It is UNESCO World Heritage City. So if you love Jane Austen, you enjoy history, you're interested in Georgian architecture, you're a fan of Bridgerton, then Bath really should be on your way to New York. And as I say, it's a really easy day trip by train from London. So next on our list for this for this episode, so number 5 is the university city of Oxford.

Doug Collins [00:10:07]:

Yeah. Very easy to get to. It's just an hour's train journey, and you can go from London, Marylebone, or from Paddington.

Tracy Collins [00:10:14]:

Yeah. And then does that get you into the center of Oxford, or is it a short walk?

Doug Collins [00:10:17]:

It's a short walk.

Tracy Collins [00:10:18]:

Short walk into the city. Now, again, I'd recommend that you do a tour of Oxford. If you wanna go and see the Bodleian Library, I'd just check that it's open. Again, book a tour. If you've got interest in Harry Potter, book a tour. Take a tour with a Oxford graduate. Learn about the city. Learn about the university.

Tracy Collins [00:10:34]:

It's the best way really to to get around Oxford.

Doug Collins [00:10:37]:

And we did that with a graduate last year, didn't, with some friends?

Tracy Collins [00:10:39]:

We did. We really enjoyed it. We were recognized as well, weren't we?

Doug Collins [00:10:42]:

We bet that's right.

Tracy Collins [00:10:43]:

Funny. It was by a lovely group member and podcast listener. So hi. Yeah. So that was really nice. So Oxford again, if you're deciding between Oxford and Cambridge, oh, that's so controversial, because there's big competition between the 2 cities. Personally, should I say this on here? I don't know. Personally, I'm a I'm a kind of team Cambridge.

Tracy Collins [00:11:03]:

I just adore Cambridge. But Oxford is equally as lovely. I just don't know what it is about Cambridge. That has completely seduced me. But, yeah, consider both very easy. Oxford, again, is just you know, it's a short train, easy train ride from London to take. So that's 5. In the previous episode, that's another 5.

Tracy Collins [00:11:23]:

So we've given you 10 easy day trips from London by train. We could easily add more to this in terms of train trips and places to visit. And we're already talking about doing an episode where we talk about Liverpool, we talk about Birmingham, we talk about Chester, we talk about Manchester. If there's other places that we can talk about, and so we will probably will do an episode later on the year where we cover those destinations. But we felt these were probably the top 10 and the ones that we are asked most about. And really the ones that are kinda worth you considering if it's your first trip to London and you wanna take a day trip out, these are the places that we get asked about the most.

Doug Collins [00:12:03]:

We do get many, many inquiries, for all these places. And just saying if as you get more confident with the trains, you know, one other train change opens up even more options.

Tracy Collins [00:12:15]:

Absolutely. So if you are planning your itinerary for London and you're thinking about including 1 or 2 of these day trips and you're still a bit unsure about how to fit it in and what to do, don't forget that you can actually book us for an itinerary consult. And Doug has so much knowledge of the train routes and trains that, you know, he can help you with that sort of information, can't you?

Doug Collins [00:12:36]:

Yeah. Happy to do so.

Tracy Collins [00:12:37]:

Yeah. So we include that in the consult. But if you don't want a consult but you're still unsure about train travel in the UK, the best thing to do is to buy Doug's, UK train travel guide to UK train travel ebook, which contains huge amounts of information all about travel in the UK. One of the tips you were gonna share from that today was about what should you take on the train with you?

Doug Collins [00:12:57]:

Well, some drinks and some snacks. Even if the train service should have onboard services, You can never be a 100% certain, particularly weekends, whether those services are gonna be provided. So and anything could happen on trains in any country, so make sure you got a drink with it just in case the worst should happen, the train stops.

Tracy Collins [00:13:20]:

Okay. So

Doug Collins [00:13:22]:

it's a good idea to have some refreshments.

Tracy Collins [00:13:24]:

Yeah. It certainly is. So I'm gonna throw in kind of a bonus number 11, and I did mention at the start that I was gonna say this. And so there is one destination that I just I'm guessing when you're listening to this episode, you're thinking, well, I haven't been to Paris. Is Paris possible on a day trip from London? Right. It is. Okay? That's the first thing I'm gonna say it is, and Doug will tell you how.

Doug Collins [00:13:48]:

It takes 2 hours 17 minutes from London's St Pancras International train station. To? Paris Gare du Nord. Okay.

Tracy Collins [00:13:55]:

So we have done this many times, including last year. In fact, Doug's left him because he actually joined me in Paris once for a coffee. Came from London, had a coffee with me, and then went back to London. So it is possible. However, okay, there are gonna be lots of provisos, I'm just gonna say. And I suggest if you are thinking about taking a day trip from London to Paris on the Eurostar and back, day trip there, back, that you listen to my episode number 72. Because I did this last year. I did the trip.

Tracy Collins [00:14:31]:

It's a long day trip, I will say that. And actually a few people that came on trip did bail earlier and took an earlier train back to London, but they did have children with them. So there are lots of considerations, I would say. So, yes, it is doable. But seriously, if you are considering it, do listen to that episode because I will give you the pros and cons in more detail. But, yes, you can do it, but listen to the episode first. So I guess that's it for this episode. We've shared 10 of our favorite destinations, a bonus 11th.

Tracy Collins [00:15:03]:

We've given you information about which train station to to leave from in London. Again, check out our guide to London train stations, which is on the UK Travel Plan website. Just a reminder as well that we have a london travel planning.com website. And on that website, we have an article which details the best and easiest day trips by train from London. Now I will link to that in the show notes, which you can find [atuktravelplanet.com/forward/episode97](http://atuktravelplanet.com/forward/episode97). But I guess that just leaves us to say until next week, Doug.

Doug Collins [00:15:38]:

Happy UK travel

Tracy Collins [00:15:43]:

planning.