

# **UK TRAVEL PLANNING PODCAST EPISODE 107**

## **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 [00:00:41]:

Hello, and welcome to episode 107 of the UK travel planning podcast. In this episode, I chat with Lisa Benjamin of GoCotswold, an award winning company offering fun, friendly, small group tours of the Cotswolds. We are thrilled to announce GoCotswolds is one of our most recent partners. We only work with and recommend the best. And after reading so many fabulous reviews of their tours by members of our private UK and London travel planning Facebook group, we knew they were the perfect fit for us. Prepare to be inspired, and I know after this episode, you'll be adding a tour with go cotswolds to your itinerary. Stay tuned until the end for an exclusive discount code from Lisa, especially for our UK travel planning community. So without further ado, let's hear from Lisa.

Lisa Benjamin [00:01:28]:

Yeah. I'm Lisa Benjamin. I'm one half of the husband and wife team that runs GoCotswold. We are a family run small, guided tour company. We're based just outside of the Cotswolds in Stratford on Avon, which in itself is a well known destination, for being the birthplace and death, burial place of, William Shakespeare. So lots of visitors come to our town, and we set up GoCotswolds back in 2014. It's our 10th anniversary this year. The original idea with GoCotswolds was to, make use of all these visitors coming to Stratford upon Avon and show them the Cotswolds as well, which is actually very, very close by.

Intro [00:02:05]:

And not many people seem to realize that the Cotswolds is basically right next door to Stratford upon Avon. So, so we thought we would give people a reason to stay longer in Stratford and take them out on day trips into the Cotswolds as well. And it seems to have worked because we're still here after 10 years and after, after everything that the the pandemic threw at us as well. And, we're actually thriving, dare I say, at the moment. So, yeah, it seems to have worked. Going Cuts Awards was started by my husband, Tom, back in 2014, as I said. We met travelling. We are both very keen travellers.

Intro [00:02:38]:

And we Tom and I met each other in a backpackers hostel in Buenos Aires in Argentina, as you do. I love that story. You love that, Lisa. It's a better story than we met in the pub. So, yes, we met each other. We've actually only crossed paths for about 4 or 5 days, but we got on, like, a house on fire, kept in touch while we both traveled our separate directions. And then, yeah, it just so happened when, I came home about 9 months after meeting Tom, Tom

was working in Kent, which is where I'm from originally. And so we met up, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Intro [00:03:15]:

So so that's how we met and got together. Go Cotswolds was started a few years after that. Basically, Tom had a job that he hated. I think this happens to quite a lot of people. You get into a sort of, you get stuck in a in a rut, and you kind of don't like what you're doing but can't really see any way out. And then I was also in a very similar position, unfortunately. I was working for someone that was horrible, let's put in nicely. So we thought, well, you know, when in doubt, let's go travelling.

Intro [00:03:44]:

So, so we both quit our jobs, and we travelled around Southern Africa for a few months, trying to find ourselves, in inverted commas, or trying to, you know, just have a bit of a break and and think about what it is we really wanted to do. And so when we came back from that trip, Tom basically started GoCotswold. I took a separate career path for a little while, but eventually all paths lead back to the Cotswolds, and now we're both working on the business.

Tracy Collins [00:04:11]:

And Oh, that's fantastic. And it's a it's a small family run business, which is again, I love partnering with, small and supporting you guys because I know obviously with the pandemic, it was a few difficult years. So kind of luckily tourism is booming again, and we're back on track. And and, we've got lots of visitors coming to the UK and wanting to explore the Cotswolds, which is fantastic. So I personally, I love the Cotswolds. My parents don't live very far away from Stratford upon Avon. Oh, okay. Yeah.

Tracy Collins [00:04:41]:

So what is it about the Cotswolds? Because I mean, you know, we we kind of talk about quintessential England, so that's why I would describe it. That's a bit cliché, I guess. But but what is it about the Cotswolds you think that just makes it so special?

Intro [00:04:54]:

The Cotswolds is just absolutely beautiful. And it's the England that I think you see in the movies. It's like the Bridget Jones and the Holiday and those kind of very cute, quaint, to use an Americanism, quaint villages that just look like, you know, pictures on chocolate boxes. It's the England I think, lots of international visitors think we all live this way in these beautiful little fat cottages and lovely cotswold stone cottages. We don't. But this particular Yeah.

Tracy Collins [00:05:23]:

It's funny. I can afford to do that, Lisa. I have

Intro [00:05:25]:

to say Exactly that. Yeah. You need very deep pockets to live in the Cotswolds. But, yeah, it's it's just gorgeous. It's it's, an area of outstanding natural beauty is an official designation. So it's, kind of, one level down from a national park. And that means that the the area is protected in terms of development and building building works. You can't build anything new unless it's built in cotswold stone.

Intro [00:05:50]:

So everything looks very uniform and very connected. It's it's just lovely. It's very very rural area as well. And I think part of its appeal is that it's also fairly close to London. It's very accessible as a day trip from London or as a short break from London. There are other countryside areas, the Lake District, Peak District, far north of Scotland, and things like that. But the Cotswolds is very, very accessible. So I think that's also part of its appeal.

Tracy Collins [00:06:18]:

It's also quite a large area because that's something that when I talk about the Cotswolds with people is I think that often, it's kinda, this kind of vision of, I'm going to the Cotswolds, as in it's one little town or one couple of little towns and villages, and that's it. But it's not, is it? It's a huge area.

Intro [00:06:36]:

Yeah. It covers, 800 square miles. It's a big area. In fact, I I mentioned it's one level down from a national park. Of all the areas of outstanding natural beauty and national parks, the Cotswolds is the 2nd largest. So it covers a massive area. And I think a lot of people don't realize that. We quite often get inquiries from our potential guests saying, you know, we want to go to Cotswold, thinking that it is one village, that it's this photograph travel you could travel around for days days days and still not see everything.

Intro [00:07:12]:

But the one thing that is uniform is that all the places in the Cotswolds are absolutely beautiful. So doesn't matter where we go, it's always gonna be lovely.

Tracy Collins [00:07:20]:

Totally. Totally. It is a we try to stay there every time. Even if my parents are in Stratford, I still go and try and find somewhere to go and stay and have a few days and explore with the car and just go I I have to say, I tend to always go to the same places. I need to go more the southern parts of the Cotswolds, but I I kinda lovely I love Stowe and Barbary and that kinda area, Broadway. I'm I'm a total English garden lover, so Kiffske and Heathclare. I could honestly spend days in there in the Summer Logistics, and I have actually I've spent all days there before just in my face.

Intro [00:07:57]:

Focus. Yeah.

Tracy Collins [00:07:58]:

So should we talk about the different tours that you guys offer? Because I think perhaps that's listeners will be kinda going, oh, right. Okay. I wanna I wanna book. I wanna go on a on a go Cotswolds tour. So let's tell everybody what sort of tours there are. I know you've got kind of 4 that I'd like to cover, but I know that you've got your 2 really most popular ones. And, and and, I I love the fact that you call it Cotswolds and a date. Yes.

Tracy Collins [00:08:22]:

So I was gonna say, you called it Cotswolds and a date. Yeah. But but, actually, let's start with that one, Lisa.

Intro [00:08:29]:

Yeah. So we have a tool called Cotswolds in a Day, which is slightly tongue in cheek. As I just mentioned, the Cotswolds is over, yeah, 800 square miles. So you can't see all of the Cotswolds in a day. But the aim with this tour, this is our kind of original tour. This is the tour we've run since 2014. So it's our most popular, almost by virtue, the fact that it's the longest running tour. But the aim of this tour was to, give our visitors an overview of the Cotswolds.

Intro [00:08:55]:

So by the end of the tour, you'll have a really great idea of what the Cotswolds is all about. We will show you on this tour some of the most popular spots. So I would include Buygre and Borton on the Water in those popular hotspots. We would also take you to some other slightly less well known destinations, which we think are absolutely beautiful, and they are. And often, the places that people have never heard of turn out to be our guests' favorite. To be honest, Bolton on the Water and Bribery is they're a bit like Marmite. They are, no doubt about it, absolutely beautiful. But because they're so beautiful, they also get completely overwhelmed by tourists.

Intro [00:09:34]:

And there's a lot of, issues going on, particularly in Borton on the water at the moment. They're trying to ban coaches from entering the village. Yeah. Lots of lots of, controversy with between tourism and the locals. So although Porton Law, it is no doubt absolutely stunning, and I love it. I think it is a really great place, especially if you've got kids. There's lots of family friendly activities you can do there. It does get very, very busy in the summer, in the winter

Tracy Collins [00:10:03]:

It is. I have to I have to, like, totally agree with you there, miss, because we've stayed there we tend to just stay there in the winter when it's I mean, it's still busy. Even in January, it's still busy. But we stayed there, I think, June last year, and we found, especially during the day, it was crazy. So we would go out during the day and then come back later on, sort of 5 or 6 ish when a lot of people had left. I mean, it was still busy. I would say it was still so busy. And Barbary I love Barbary.

Tracy Collins [00:10:32]:

There's just something about Arlington Road that just absolutely adore it, but I I totally understand. And and, actually, in actually, it was end of January. I stayed I went to stay in Burford with it, one of my, actually, one of my closest friends. We couldn't get parked in Byberry in January. So I hate to think, I know last year we managed we went about 7 o'clock at night and managed to get parked. So I know that that's been a huge issue, and there's been a lot in the in the media about the issues, about too many tourist visits, because too many I don't know. So it's a difficult one, isn't it, to to manage that?

Intro [00:11:04]:

Yeah. Because on the one hand, we would actually rather not go to Port London Water because it's so busy. But on the other hand, we wouldn't make any money. We wouldn't sell any tours if we weren't offering the places that people have heard of and they want to go to. So it's we we often say, like, on our tours that going to the Cotswolds and not going to Ball in

the Water is like going to Paris and not seeing the Eiffel Tower. But that's not to say you can have a wonderful holiday in Paris without seeing the Eiffel Tower, but that's not gonna sell tickets on a tour. You know? So it's it's a really difficult issue. We include Bought Another Water on our cocktails in a day tour almost to show, like we include Bought Another Water on our cocktails in a day tour because we want people to see what it's like and compare that with some of the other more beautiful, we think, more beautiful and quieter places that we love and we think are more genuinely cottons as well.

Intro [00:11:54]:

Yeah. It's it's a really difficult one. But I don't want to dissuade people from coming to the Cotswolds. But, yeah, certain places do get very busy. I would say that certain places do get very busy in the summer. At other times of the year, they can be absolutely dead. And, and that makes for excellent photographs with no people in them. But, yeah, at certain times of the year, particularly sunny holiday weekends, Bolton on the Water is busy.

Intro [00:12:16]:

But as well as that, on our Cotter's Made Tour, we'll take you to, Stone the World, which is a lovely little market town. It's got a really historic and very famous church door that some of our guests may have seen on Instagram. It's a very Instagramable door, rumored to be the inspiration for JRR Tolkien's, the Doors of Durin in the Lord of the Rings trilogy. We're also

Tracy Collins [00:12:40]:

a number of photos of of me standing at that door. You know, every every time I go to Stowe, I have a photo at that door. It has to be done.

Intro [00:12:49]:

Yeah. It has to be done. Yeah. Exactly. And where else do we go on that tour? We also take you to Chip in Camden. Now Chip in Camden is my, hands down, favorite place in the Cotswolds. I make no mistake about it. I love it.

Intro [00:13:02]:

It's a beautiful, town. Not a village. It's a town. And it's gorgeous. It's absolutely full of history. It's got, ancient buildings everywhere you look. It's got some thatch cottages that are to die for, and it's lovely. But what I like most about Tippinghamden is it's it's a very authentic Cotswolds town.

Intro [00:13:22]:

People live there. People work there. People do their shopping there. It's not a touristy town. So I absolutely love that. We also go to another little village called Snowhill, which is glorious. It's only very tiny. You can walk around it in about 5, 10 minutes.

Intro [00:13:37]:

But it is beautiful. So our cutters and the data will show you a mixture of the good and the bad and the ugly, really. The the beautiful little villages that no one's ever heard of. The authentic Cotswolds towns that are great for shopping and just being a part of everyday life. And we'll show you the popular places as well because I think you have to have that balance.

Tracy Collins [00:13:56]:

Yeah. No. Absolutely agree. And then you can combine that. So you could do that on your 1st day, and then you can combine this with the second term that you offer, that we wanna talk about, which is your, secret Cotswolds.

Intro [00:14:08]:

Absolutely. Yes. So secret Cotswolds. We've been really pleased how well this has gone down so far. We actually only launched this tour, back in March this year because we felt that we needed another tour that complements this Cotswolds and a Day tour. And the Secret Cotswolds tour, it's our guides absolutely love it. It's their favorite tour to do because it gets you off the beaten track, does take you to some a couple of popular villages because, again, we still need to sell tickets. So we'll take you to Broadway and to Burford, which are more popular, and also good places to get lunch as well.

Intro [00:14:40]:

But the the focus of this tour is on the secret, not really secret obviously, but, you know, the the lesser known locations in the Cotswolds. So we visit, an ancient stone circle. It's by no means nothing like Stonehenge but, it's actually older than Stonehenge which is kind of cool. And we also go to, a place called Stanton which is just glorious. There's, again, fabulous statue cottages there. And, there's a riding school really close by. So the looks on our guests' faces, people from other countries that come to Stanton, they're like they've fallen into a dream of England. It's like the beautiful cottages And then, you've got these horses riding through the village.

Intro [00:15:20]:

And then, you've got people hiking through the village as well, because it's on the cottles way. It's just like a little snapshot of what everyone dreams of England being like. It's absolutely stunning. And then we also go to another little village called Guiding Power, which I'm almost reluctant to talk about because it's so lovely. I don't want everyone to flood there and it for it to become the next port on the water. But it's it's absolutely wonderful. I can't even it's just got so much history. It goes back to, like, Saxon times.

Intro [00:15:48]:

There's a Saxon burial chamber just plonked in a field. It's so, it's I wouldn't imagine it to be there. There's, a really great community there. You actually have to have a connection to Guiding Power to live in Guiding Power. So, it's very much a village for local people. It's not full of Airbnbs like many of the other cuts on villages. It is an actual lived in village. It's only about 300 people that live there.

Intro [00:16:14]:

But it's, so genuine and so authentic. There's a fabulous coffee shop. There's a little delicatessen where, they sell, reportedly, David Beckham's favourite sausage rolls. So that's always a winner with our tour guests. And it's just wonderful. I absolutely love it. So, yeah, I can't talk enough about it. But but no one's ever heard of Guiding Power.

Intro [00:16:36]:

So no one's gonna book a tour if that's you know, if that was the only place we went to. If we only went to places that no one's ever heard of, then no one will book it, sadly. But, I think people need to take a risk and get out of those hot spots.

Tracy Collins [00:16:49]:

I think that's a great combination, though, having the 2. So you get you got your Cotswolds on a day, so you do some again, some of the most popular places and some of the kinda lesser known but equally beautiful places, and then the secret Cotswolds to build on that the next stage. So that's great. So, you know, I think that's the way to go. If you're staying in the Cotswolds, definitely, you know, consider taking both of them. That sounds brilliant for me. Now I know also because we often have, people contact us who are considering doing the Cotswold way and doing the doing that walk. And I know that you offer a Cotswold Walks and Villages tour.

Tracy Collins [00:17:21]:

So and that's only part of the year that you do that one, I think.

Intro [00:17:24]:

Yeah. So, the Walks and Villages tour kind of came out of lockdown, actually. We wanted to do a tour that was a bit more outside based. Not that you're stuck on a minibus all day on our tours at all. That's not the case. But we wanted a a kind of a more active outdoor tour that would get people outside so people weren't kind of confined in the minibus, and breathing COVID all over each other. So we started this tour, we run it from May to September when, in theory, the weather is better and the parks are less muddy. And the idea of this one was to get people out out of the minibus and onto the footpath.

Intro [00:18:01]:

My husband and I, we're very active people. We love walking and running, and we wanted to do a tour that reflected us as well. But also, we know that with our tours, because they're small groups, they're not private tours, the small group aspect is great for people that are perhaps less confident with going out for a walk, people that maybe have never walked on public footpaths before. Because public footpaths are quite an enathomer. Is that the right word? They don't exist in other countries. We we are so fortunate in this country to have these rights of way and public access. And if you're not used to that, it can be quite daunting to get the Ordnance Survey map out and plot your route. And it's it can be quite, quite difficult.

Intro [00:18:41]:

So we kind of came up with this tour, which is not the hardcore hiking tour. You don't need any walking poles or specialist equipment or anything, but it just gives an experience of what it's like to be in the English countryside, with the comfort and knowledge of an expert guide to lead you through the the glorious countryside so you don't get lost, which is nice. There are plenty of other companies out there that do specialist walking tours, that concentrate on the Cotswold Way and other things like that. So we didn't want to, tread on their toes, but this is kind of an entry level walking tour, if you like. So you don't need to be super fit. You don't need to be super experienced or have all the gear. You just need to have a bit of a moderate level of fitness, be able to walk about a mile or 2. And, yeah, it's it's a brilliant tour.

Intro [00:19:26]:

I love it. I love the way I love the fact that you can visit different villages on this tour, but you're approaching in this completely different way because you're approaching it from across the fields, and you're going over the stiles and the over the dry stone walls and stuff. You're not coming at it from the road, which is a it's it gives you really nice different perspective.

Tracy Collins [00:19:42]:

Yeah. No. That sounds really good. I like that. I have to say I like the sound of doing that because that's not something I'm not a great walker anywhere, I have to say, but that appeals to me because, again, I'm not even though I'm, British, I haven't done a lot of walking, a lot of hiking, so I'd be I would get lost. I would definitely not

Intro [00:19:59]:

get lost.

Tracy Collins [00:19:59]:

So following somebody would work really well for me. And also get it's just like getting that different perspective of kind of walking through the fields in the English countryside. You know, I just that sounds like a lot of fun to me as well and in the beautiful cotts hole. So what more could you want, really? That's brilliant. And, and I know so the 4th toe I'm gonna cover, I think this is a new one that you've introduced. Is it this year?

Intro [00:20:21]:

Yeah. The Bath and Stonehenge tour. It's kind of an experiment at the moment. We get lots and lots of requests from, people that visit our website and send us emails, for tours of Bath or to Bath. And for a long time, we didn't even consider it. Bath is about 2 hours away from where we're based. And there are companies in Bath that do tours of the Cotswolds. But we just got so many inquiries.

Intro [00:20:48]:

Please, can we go to Bath? Can you do a tour to Bath? We thought, okay. We're gonna do a tour to Bath. So because you guys are based

Tracy Collins [00:20:55]:

in the north part of the Cotswolds. So if you're staying up where you guys are, it kinda makes sense that you can jump on a tour with you, go and see Bath and Stonehenge, and then go back up to, Moreton or Stowe, Stratford. So you're back up in the North Cotswolds rather than have to try and find your way down there yourself, so it's an easy way to add on.

Intro [00:21:14]:

Yeah. Absolutely. And and that's that was part of the reason we, launched this tour as well. As another reason to stay longer in our part of the world, in in Stratford upon Avon and the Cotswolds, Lots of people do day tours to Bath and Stonehenge from London. It's actually about the same distance, maybe even slightly quicker, to take a tour of Bath and Stonehenge from Stratford upon Avon or Moreton and Marsh where we do our tours. And you get to travel through the Cotswolds on the way. You're not travelling along busy

motorways and getting stuck in London traffic. The A303 down to Stonehenge is, like, notoriously awful for traffic.

Intro [00:21:49]:

It's basically a single carriageway with and, yeah, number of people that get stuck in that traffic, and it really slows down when you go past Stonehenge because everyone's gawping at Stonehenge. But we approach it from a completely different way. You're traveling through the Cotswolds, from the North Cotswolds all the way through to the Southern Cotswolds to Bath and Stonehenge. So you're coming at it again from a different perspective. And, yeah, and it's another reason for people to stay longer in the Cotswolds rather than having to do all these massive day trips from London or hopping about the country doing different trips to different places. You can stay in one place and do several trips. And it doesn't have to be London.

Tracy Collins [00:22:23]:

So why not base yourself in the control? So let's talk logistics, Lisa, then. So if you're gonna book so departure points, I think that's that's important so that people know where to stay or where they need to get to to pick up a tour. Let's talk about, like, how many people do you have on a tour. I know it's a small group tour, so that's great. And a little bit about tour guide. So a little bit kind of the logistics and a little bit about kinda who goes out with your own tour would be really good.

Intro [00:22:47]:

Sure. So as I said, we're based in Stratford and Avon, just slightly to the north of the Cotswolds. So we have a pickup point there in the middle of Stratford. There's, okay, a coach terminal that we pick up from. And then once we pick passengers up from there, we drive to Moreton and Marsh train station, which is just inside the Cotswolds, and we pick up people from there as well. So the 2 pickup points are chosen that way, the Stratford pickup, because we live there, so it's very easy for us to pick up people. People are staying in Stratford upon Avon for the Shakespeare and all the Tudor history of Stratford, so we have people to collect there. Then, we didn't use to do this originally, but after a couple of years, we added the Moreton and Marsh pickup point on, Because Moreton and Marsh is one of the very few Cotswold towns with a train station.

Intro [00:23:31]:

And even better than that, it has a train line that goes direct from London and Oxford to Moreton and Marsh. So lots of our customers, lots of our tour guests will take the train from London or from Oxford for a day trip. So that makes it really, really accessible. Moreton and Marsh is also a really nice place to stay. There's a few hotels there as well. So, gives you lots of options for, if you wanna stay in Oxford. You can just take the train. It takes 30 minutes.

Intro [00:23:54]:

That's all to get to Moreton and Marsh. And then you've got Oxford on your doorstep and Blenheim Palace and the rest of the cotswolds down south. But, yeah, it's nice and easy for people to get to us.

Tracy Collins [00:24:03]:

Perfect. And then how many people do you have in your on your tours maximum? What's your kinda numbers?

Intro [00:24:08]:

So we have, 17 seater mini buses, so we can carry 16 passengers plus the driver guide. It's really nice. We're actually one of the only companies in and around the Cotswolds that has, these slightly larger vehicles. Most tour companies in the Cotswolds only offer private tours in sort of standard sized cars, like 4 to 8 seater cars. We did things a little bit differently, and we went and got the minibus license. It's a bit harder to get a minibus license than it is to get a private hire license, which is, I think, why most companies do the private tours only. But we put in that that little bit of extra effort to get the minibus licenses because we wanted to make the tours affordable for people. A private tour in the Cotswolds is great.

Intro [00:24:51]:

If you've got the luxury of a private tour, it's wonderful. But it can cost you upwards of well, anything upwards of £400 and the rest. If you're travelling on your own or just as a couple, that's quite a lot of money for some people. So we decided to do things a bit differently and sell individual tickets for our tour rather than so you're to buying a seat on the tour rather than buying the whole vehicle, renting the whole vehicle for the day. So our tour start from just £65 this year, which is obviously quite a lot different from £400 for a private tour. So, yeah, we're very affordable for, solo travelers. We absolutely welcome solo travelers. We welcome couples and small groups of friends or family by whom, you know, they want to join a small group.

Intro [00:25:35]:

This it's a nice, fun, and friendly way to get to know a few different people. Yeah. We create a really nice atmosphere.

Tracy Collins [00:25:42]:

So I'm being catered for family. So is there a certain age from that you take on the tours?

Intro [00:25:48]:

So we don't allow children under 3, and that's more from a safety point of view. It is actually legal for children to under 3 to sit on their parents' lap while they're traveling on a minibus. But we, as parents ourselves, we just felt quite uncomfortable with that. If, god forbid, in in if we had an accident and there was a child sat on a parent's lap, who just doesn't bear thinking about what what might happen. So we make the decision not to allow children under 3, and and it's not always a popular decision. With some parents, you want to bring their babies, but we felt that that was the right thing to do. For anyone over the age of 3 is absolutely welcome on our tours. We have people from, yeah, 3 to 103.

Intro [00:26:26]:

I'm not sure what the oldest person is we've had. Definitely had some people in their nineties. So, yeah, we cater for everyone. Yeah. It's a really lovely group. And because it's a mixed group, we get people from all over the world. It's really interesting to be part of that group. And our guides are brilliant at trying to bring everyone together.

Intro [00:26:43]:

One one thing that our guides always try to do, it's not always possible, but they always try to learn the names of all their passengers on the tour. And quite a lot of our TripAdvisor reviews mention this. People really like it when you're referred to by your name and you get to know someone. It's it's sometimes difficult to remember some names, and especially if our guides are doing lots of tours. But, yeah, that's one thing we try to do, Always tried to make people feel welcome. Tom and I, when we started the company, we were solo travelers ourselves. So one thing that we always wanted to do was try and make a tour that was accessible for solo travelers. And I think originally, Tom wanted to do a backpacker tour bus, but that kind of market wasn't there.

Intro [00:27:22]:

So the dynamic, the the, sort of, demographic is slightly different to what we imagined in the beginning of the company, but it's no less fun. It's it's really good atmosphere.

Tracy Collins [00:27:32]:

Well, I think it's great because it you know, it's accessible for everybody that can go on your tours, you know, as long as they're age 3 and above the fact they can come where your tours and enjoy the Cotswolds. That's brilliant. Lisa, if people want to book with you, obviously, I'm going to put a link to your website in the show notes for this episode, but it would be good if you could share now your website. And also, because you're offering a kind of exclusive discount as well to our listeners and our, Facebook group as well, if you're a member of that. So if you wanna share that, that would be really good.

Intro [00:27:59]:

Yeah. Great. Our website is [www.gocotswold.co.uk](http://www.gocotswold.co.uk). I'm gonna spell that out because Cotswold is notoriously spelled differently by different people. So it's coc0tswolds, not cost wolds or cotswolds or cotswolds. There's lots of different spellings that come out of that. So, [go.cots.wilds.co.uk](http://go.cots.wilds.co.uk) is our website. And you can find all of our tours on there.

Intro [00:28:28]:

Yep. We have a discount code for UK travel planning members or, Facebook group members and listeners. So UKTRAV Plan is the, discount code, and that will get you 5%.

Tracy Collins [00:28:40]:

Perfect. Perfect. Well, you know, I'm sure that everybody listening to this podcast now who was planning their trip to the UK, Oregon. Yep. Yep. We need to do this. We need to go to the Cotswolds. We need to go out with Cotswolds and and, have some fun, which is clearly exploring such a beautiful area with such a a friendly bunch of people.

Tracy Collins [00:28:57]:

I I mean, it's been great talking to you today, Lisa. And, we've we've only met a couple of times to kinda chat about everything, but we get on so well. It's really cool. So I can't wait. Actually, I'll be over in the UK later on in the year, so hopefully we'll get a chance to meet up as well in person.

Intro [00:29:11]:

That'd be great. We'd love to see you. Yeah.

Tracy Collins [00:29:13]:

Yeah. So but thanks so much for coming on. As I say, I will put a link to the company, GoCotswolds, in the show notes. And I'll also repeat the code there so that you can go onto the website and get yourself that 5% discount as well. But for this episode, Lisa, it was absolutely fantastic talking to you. So thanks so much for coming on.

Intro [00:29:31]:

Thanks for having me, Chacey. Nice to speak to you.

Tracy Collins [00:29:35]:

Thank you for tuning in to this week's episode of the UK Travel Planning Podcast. As always, show notes can be found at [atuktravelplanning.com](http://atuktravelplanning.com). If you've enjoyed the show, why not leave us feedback via text or a review on your favorite podcast app? We love to hear from you, and you never know. You may receive a shout out in a future episode. But as always, that just leaves me to say, until next week, happy UK travel planning.