

# Embroidered Jacket Tour of UK

Join Tricia Wilson Nguyen of Thistle Threads and Susan Albury of Hanging by a Thread on a once in-a-lifetime trip to examine the embroidered jackets which inspired the Plimoth Jacket Project. Rare access to these jackets and related pieces has been arranged for our group including factory tours and collections normally closed to the public. We have secured viewing of at least a dozen of the existing pieces on this tour. The following is the itinerary ready for publishing at print time. As any new information is available, it will be posted at [www.thistlethreads.com/jacketstudytour](http://www.thistlethreads.com/jacketstudytour) and mailed to the list on file. Virgin Vacations is our tour operator and will be handling the air and land arrangements.

## Jacket Tour of England September 21 - October 1, 2010

*Tuesday, Sept 21:*

*Depart USA*

Each individual will travel to London to meet the group. Airfare will be priced separately. Virgin Atlantic Airways services major gateways from the US to London. Virgin Vacations also has wholesale contracts with other carriers to England, so please inquire for flight schedules & prices from your city.

*Wednesday, Sept 22:*

*Arrival in London*

Our local Virgin Vacations representative will be waiting to welcome you upon your arrival and escort you to your shuttle for a ride to the hotel, the Kensington Close Hotel & Spa. Located in the midst of the prestigious High Street of Kensington, London there will be plenty of opportunity to get into a little shopping trouble when not viewing embroideries.

Upon arrival at the hotel and a rest period, join Tricia and Susan for a tour of the Museum of London. We will take a private coach to the Museum. While explor-



ing the newly designed galleries, Tricia will take small groups into the collection rooms to view three magnificent embroidered jackets which will be brought out for us. Primarily worked in black, these pieces show the embellished jackets which were more accessible to the well-off than those jackets encrusted with gold.

For those who are well rested already and don't need a nap, we will provide a suggestion sheet of

places to visit to see 17th century embroidery, costume, or jacket portraiture, all easily accessible by public transportation - but make sure to be back to grab your seat to the Museum!

Once we return to the hotel by coach, the evening is yours for a bit of shopping or to get in some needed sleep for the next day.

*Thursday, Sept 23*

*Hampton Court Palace*

Our first full day of touring will start with coach transportation to Hampton Court, former palace of King Henry VIII. Our travelers will be divided into two groups so that we may comfortably see the palace grounds and museum with tour guides while we take turns visiting the Royal School of Needlework. There, we will see the workroom and textile archives. We will talk to the staff about how they tackle large embroidery projects, such as



*Thistle  
Threads*

*Virgin* VACATIONS

*Hanging By A Thread*

the coronation robes of Elizabeth II, with a staff of professional embroiderers and apprentices. The workroom practices will be contrasted with the experiences of the Plimoth Project. Hampton Court contains a number of wonderful portraits of the time including a masque piece showing a full length embroidered 'jacket'.

After returning to London, weather permitting, we will enjoy an Elizabethan night out by attending a performance at Shakespeare Globe Theater. After your individual dinner plans, meet us at the theater for your tickets. The performances aren't set for the 2010 season yet, but we hope to find one that fits in our schedule - more info on this will be available later. Bring your best 17th century evening wear - maybe you have secretly been embroidering a piece of costume of your own? Coifs not required.

**Friday, Sept 24** *Victoria and Albert Museum*

We have an exciting day planned at the Victoria and Albert Museum in the collections rooms and galleries. We will divide into small groups of between 5-10 so we can visit the collections storage to view the Layton Jacket



and #1359-1900. These two jackets were the primary pieces used for the reproduction jacket at Plimoth Plantation. Tricia will join each group to discuss the unique qualities of the pieces. A number of additional jackets will also be out for viewing to enable each person to get a

closer look at the embroideries. When not in the collections storage, the rest of the group will be able to explore the British Galleries and the textile study room, a unique space with thousands of embroideries in study frames that can be moved to tables for closer examination. The British galleries contain some of the premiere embroidered pieces in the collection as well as another spectacular jacket which was recently added to the V&A collection.

How good is your knowledge of embroidery techniques and styles? Are you expert at recognizing the difference between the Chinese Forbidden Stitch and a French Knot? The V&A has a



bit of every type of embroidery imaginable! Tricia will provide a scavenger hunt sheet for your amusement - prizes will be awarded!

We will take a break in the late afternoon as a group and stroll to Harrods to enjoy a traditional English High Tea. Transportation to and from the hotel is by coach.

After tea, those who have the stamina can pass on returning to the hotel and choose instead to return to the Victoria and Albert Museum for an evening exploration of the rest of the museum which is open until 10 pm. Or maybe you might get a group together to take in a late show, special dinner or some shopping. London is an exciting city at night - maybe a walk of the lighted monuments is your pleasure!

**Saturday, Sept 25**

*Maidstone*

We have arranged a special opening of the textile collection at the Maidstone Museum for our group on the weekend. Maidstone has a wonderful stem stitch embroidered jacket using a rust colored silk.



The collection also contains several pieces of 17th century embroidery including terrific beadwork pictures and christening baskets as well as an unusual set of gold and silk slips. Fiona Woolley, Maidstone curator, will be on hand to give us an overview of the pieces. We will travel to Maidstone by train and the museum is a short walk from the station. Our private coach will take us to the station from our hotel and will be waiting for us on our return.

Since we all need something to work on in the evenings and on the bus the next day, Tricia will teach an informal mini-project in the evening for those who are interested. The kits will be available to all on tour and will be derived from the pieces we will be viewing. Don't worry, there will be a few related projects passed out to keep your hands busy during the trip.

## *Sunday, Sept 26*

## *Tour Oxfordshire*

We leave London in the morning and travel towards Stratford-on-Avon by way of a few stops. Now that we are leaving the legendary slow traffic of London, we will be traveling by private coach for the remainder of the trip. Our first stop is Sulgrave Manor. Sulgrave Manor is the historic home of George Washington's family and the site of a well known collaborative embroidery project to restore a set of bed hangings. About 10 years ago, embroiderers around the world stitched slips which were sent to Sulgrave. Jenny Overson, who managed the project will give us a tour of the restored pieces as well as some other historic pieces in the collection.

Our last stop before Stratford-on-Avon is Witney Antiques, specialists in antique samplers and publishers of a unique series of informative catalogs on embroideries. We will explore the current selection of embroideries, which are always top caliber as well as their collection of 17th century pieces. Who knows, if you still have a few pennies in your pocket, you might find a souvenir of your trip!



We will arrive in Stratford-on-Avon in the early evening to

spend two nights in the land of the Bard as our base for western England. We will be staying in the 4-star Mercure Stratford Upon Avon Shakespeare Hotel, located in a remodeled historic tudor set of buildings in the center. Imagine yourself in your own embellished clothing walking into the establishment for a evening of 'companie with your fellow gentlewomen and men'. Our setting will help complete the fantasy. Costume not included.

## *Monday, Sept 27*

## *Bath*

Today we tour two venues, the ancient Roman Baths & Pump Room and the Fashion Museum, formally known as the Bath Costume Museum and Assembly Rooms. We will divide into small groups and rotate through the venues, allowing for additional time for unstructured exploration of your own of Bath and its architectural wonders.

At the Fashion museum, we will join the curators in the study rooms to view the embroidered jackets in their

collection. They have a rare polychrome jacket with coiling stems which has a mate in the Burrell Collection in Glasgow. They also have two blackwork waistcoats. The galleries of the Fashion Museum are worth exploring when your group is not in the study rooms. We hope to see a few examples of the stunning collection of embroidered gloves as well. This collection is from the Worshipful Company of Glovers and is the best in the nation.

## *Tuesday, Sept 28*

## *Northward to Sheffield*

We leave Stratford-on-Avon in the mid morning and travel northward after paying homage to the birthplace of the Bard by touring one of the house museums.

In the afternoon, we arrive at Benton & Johnson for an exclusive tour of



their gold thread



manufacturing facilities. An extraordinary education is in store; watching how gold threads, pipes and purls are

made using Victorian era machines. We will allow plenty of time to browse through their product line and Tricia will be on-hand to make suggestions for what threads might be appropriate for some project you have envisioned. You just might find a small goodie-bag from this stop on your bus seat as well!

After filling our pockets with golden threads, we will continue on to Kenwood Hall in Sheffield (a 12-acre historic property) where we will set up in our new home for the next three nights.



## *Wednesday, Sept 29*

## *Sheffield*

In the morning we will be treated to a rare opening of the Nottingham Costume and Lace Collection. This collection of embroideries has been closed to the public permanently but we have arranged to see a selection of pieces. One of the special requests is a nightcap that bears a stunning resemblance to the embroidery pattern used on the Plimoth Jacket Project. Join Tricia in the

detective work of examining this piece for similarities. We will bring a package of photos of the known related pieces and do a comparison. We will view a selection of other costume pieces from the Stuart Era as well.

During the afternoon, we will be visiting the home of Bess of Hardwick. Home to a stunning collection of late 16th century embroideries, Hardwick Hall was a famous piece of architecture in its time as well as today. We will tour the estate envisioning what it may have been like to walk the halls in embellished splendor. Viewing the embroideries which were the subject of Santana Levy's books will inspire us all.



After dinner, we will be joined by two special special guests for evening lectures on 17th century embroidery and costume. The first guest is Mary Brooks, author of a number of wonderful volumes on embroidery. Mary will show us her research on the Feller Collection, an extensive private collection of 17th century embroidery to put the icing on our trip. Her first book on the subject will be published right before our arrival in England. Copies will be available for purchase that night - perhaps an autograph is in store?

Our second guest will be Susan Vincent, historian and author of the soon-to-be published "The Anatomy of Fashion - Dressing the Body from the Renaissance to Today" and the well regarded "Dressing the Elite - Clothes in Early Modern England". Susan is a treat as a lecturer - not to be missed. Her wit is as sharp as her research and we will be regaled with insights into the absurdity of past and contemporary fashion as well as to the mindsets that promulgated them.

**Thursday, Sept 30**

**Manchester**



An exciting day will be spent in Manchester at the Platt museum. The textile curator is looking forward to augmenting the stunning set of embroidered costume shown in the newly opened redesigned gallery with additional pieces from storage. Platt Hall is home to two

embroidered jackets, one in blackwork and another that is a more relaxed shape than the waistcoats you are familiar with already. Extensively embroidered with golden arabesques, the polychrome piece shimmers in the gallery light. While some are examining the jackets, others will divert their attention to some of the fantastic nightcaps and coifs in the collection.



After a full day in the costume collection, we will join together for an early farewell dinner.

**Friday, October 1st**

**Travel Home**

We will transfer to the airport in Manchester for flights to London and then on to our home countries. Those who choose to take the optional weekend trip to Scotland will fly north.

## Jacket Tour of Scotland October 1 - 5, 2010

**Friday, Oct 1st**

**Edinburgh/Glasgow**

At press time, we have yet to decide the order for the visits to the Burrell, but tentatively after arrival in the morning in Edinburgh, we will spend the afternoon in the Burrell Collection located outside Glasgow. We will be joined by the textile curator and 17th century embroidery expert, Chris Berry to look at pieces in the storage collection. Don't worry that we won't have time to see the gallery - we will return the next day for a second day at the Burrell.

**Saturday, Oct 2nd**

**Glasgow**

In the morning we will return to Glasgow to see the fantastic Burrell Collection in the galleries. On display are over a dozen pieces of 17th century domestic and professional embroidery as well as the rare match to the Bath jacket we viewed on the main tour. We will split into two groups. Each group will explore the gallery while the other is taking an embroidery workshop based on pieces we viewed the day before in storage with Tudor and Stuart embroidery expert Chris Berry. Chris, a well known teacher, is also a docent at the museum and former President of the Embroiderers' Guild.

***Sunday, Oct 3rd***

***Edinburgh***

We will use the day to explore both the old town and 'new' Georgian wonders of Edinburgh. After a morning guided tour of Edinburgh Castle, seat of the Stuart Monarchy, and city highlights you will be free to explore the rest of the city at your own pace.

***Monday, Oct 4th***

***Edinburgh***

We will tour of the famous Lady Evelyn Needlework Collection at Blair Castle in Perthshire. Lady Evelyn Stewart Murray was a Victorian Era woman whose devotion to embroidery and lace rivals the most ardent 'fanatic'. Not only did she collect pieces and fragments of embroidery and lace, but she strove to outdo the makers with her own fine work. Concentrating mainly on whitework techniques and lace, the collection also includes spectacular examples of her whitework on cambric where the stitches are so tiny and perfect as to blow the mind and make you put down your needle as unworthy of being its master.

***Tuesday, Oct 5th***

***Travel Home***

We will transfer to the airport in the morning for flights to London and on to our home countries, exhausted but happy!

## **Tour Costs & Conditions**

### **Jacket Tour of England - Land Only**

\$3500 Per Person Sharing A Twin Room  
\$509 Single Supplement

### **Jacket Tour of Scotland - Land Only**

\$1500 Per Person Sharing a Twin Room  
\$ 130 Single Supplement - estimated

### ***Included in the Jacket Tour of England Price:***

Hotels 9 Nights / 11 Days:

4 Nights – London  
2 Nights – Stratford-on-Avon  
3 Nights – Sheffield

Meals:

Continental breakfast daily in hotels  
Harrods Afternoon Tea  
Farewell Dinner with wine

Entry Tickets Included:

Museum of London

Hampton Court  
Performance at Globe Theater  
Royal School of Needlework  
Victoria & Albert Museum  
Maidstone Museum  
Sulgrave Manor  
Bath Museum of Costume  
Royal Pump Rooms  
Shakespeare's Birthplace  
Hardwick Hall  
Platt Museum

Package Inclusions:

Airport transfers  
Tour escort and/or local guides  
Transportation as noted in itinerary  
Baggage handing at hotels, 1 bag per person

Not Included in the Tour Price:

Air fare to/from London, England  
Air fare from Manchester to London if needed  
Afternoon and Evening Meals except those listed above  
Travel Insurance

### ***Included in the Jacket Tour of Scotland Price:***

Hotels 4 Nights in Edinburgh / 4 Days

Meals - Continental breakfast daily in hotels

Entry Tickets Included:

The Burrell Collection  
Edinburgh Castle  
Blair Castle Special Embroidery Tour  
Embroidery Class and Kit

Package Inclusions:

Flight from Manchester to Edinburgh at beginning of tour and Edinburgh to London at end of tour  
Airport transfers  
Tour escort and/or local guides  
Transportation as noted in itinerary  
Baggage handing at hotels, 1 bag per person

Not Included in the Tour Price:

Air fare to England  
Afternoon and Evening Meals  
Travel Insurance

## DEPOSIT & CANCELLATION POLICY

A deposit of \$500 is required for the Jacket Tour of England. A deposit of \$250 is required for the Jacket Tour of Scotland. Your deposit(s) are only refundable if we are able to fill your space. Reservations may be made for the Jacket Tour of Scotland without attending the Jacket Tour of England.

Full balance is due 90 days prior to departure

If an individual cancels and as a result causes a roommate to have to be accommodated in a twin/double room for single occupancy then no refund will be given or a single supplement may be charged.

Requests for cancellation must be made in writing.

Virgin Vacations will confirm bookings, changes and cancellations in writing.

A minimum of 20 people are required to run the Jacket Tour of England and a minimum of 20 people are required to run the Jacket Tour of Scotland. In the case of a cancellation of either tour, Virgin Vacations will refund the deposit.

### Waiver of Liability

I release Thistle Threads, LLC; Hanging By A Thread Ltd; and Virgin Vacations from any liability for personal injury resulting from participating in and attending any and all functions at the event. I certify that I have read the registration, cancellation and payment information and agree to the terms and conditions listed therein

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

US Citizens must have a passport that is valid for 6 months or more from the time of their return.

**Reservations and Deposits will be taken starting at Noon Eastern Standard Time on January 13, 2009**

**For information, booking & airfare quotes  
Call 877-700-7005 press 1 and then 4116**

**Ask for Colleen Price and mention Tour #301271**

**Informational requests and additional terms and conditions are available from Colleen at the same number previous to January 13th. Colleen will be unavailable between Jan 1-12th but other agents can provide information.**