

# PressRelease Press Release PressRelease

## Virtual Tours and Talks from Britain's Best Tourist Guides

One antidote to trash television and eating too much during lockdown is free web-based TV offered by Britain's army of elite Blue Badge Tourist Guides - subjects range from stately homes to London street art via the Beatles in Liverpool, with quizzes and music in the mix.

Enterprising tourist guides are making the most of lockdown time, creating new and exciting ways to share their wide and quirky knowledge. Using web-based social media and radio links, they are providing expert talks about all sorts of intriguing aspects of British history and culture.

It is likely that the guides, who make their living from tourists during the summer months, will lose the vast majority of their work this year.

Here are some of the best lockdown offerings from the Blue Badge guides -

### LONDON-BASED TOURS

- **Pepe Martinez** Video snippets of London walks and chit chat on subjects such as street art and theatre. [www.instagram.com/londontourguidepepe](https://www.instagram.com/londontourguidepepe)  
[www.londontourguidepepe.co.uk](http://www.londontourguidepepe.co.uk) Contact: 07956 919299;  
[contact@londontourguidepepe.co.uk](mailto:contact@londontourguidepepe.co.uk)
- **Tours For My Kids** Sarah Ciacci presents short videos focusing on individual paintings, and with puppet shows on the history of England and London.  
[www.instagram.com/toursformykids](https://www.instagram.com/toursformykids) [www.toursformykids.com](http://www.toursformykids.com) Contact: 07950 679725; [ciacci.sarah@googlemail.com](mailto:ciacci.sarah@googlemail.com)
- **London Snippets** Danielle Harte's clips include Smithfield Market and Cleopatra's Needle  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5oFGMvuyukP6Hhu8nQOTCw> Contact: 07885 436784; [www.danithetheguide.com](http://www.danithetheguide.com)
- **Global Tea Break** daily talks at 3pm on British and London history and culture – Dickens, Beefeaters at the Tower, street art and much more.  
[www.instagram.com/tourguide.alex](https://www.instagram.com/tourguide.alex) [www.alexlacey.com/global-tea-break](http://www.alexlacey.com/global-tea-break)  
Contact: 07790 308887; [Alex@alexlacey.com](mailto:Alex@alexlacey.com)
- **Look Up London** Katie Wignall has a wide selection of amazing virtual walking tours of London – Tower Hill, Bethnal Green, Covent Garden, Borough among them – presented live on Monday, Wednesday and Friday 2pm.  
[www.instagram.com/look\\_uplondon](https://www.instagram.com/look_uplondon) [lookup.london/live](http://lookup.london/live) Contact: 07986 564284; [katie@lookup.london](mailto:katie@lookup.london)
- **A Friday Quiz** is part of Nick Salmond's thrice-weekly broadcasts on history and London themes (for example food, fashion).  
[www.youtube.com/user/GuideLondon/videos](https://www.youtube.com/user/GuideLondon/videos) Contact: [salmond.guide@gmail.com](mailto:salmond.guide@gmail.com)

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- **Amad Belgium** Jennifer El Gammal goes out on Fridays at 10am mixing music and information about places and objects. [www.instagram.com/amadbelgian](http://www.instagram.com/amadbelgian) [amadbelgian.org](http://amadbelgian.org) Contact: 07771 103163; [guide@jenniferelgammal.com](mailto:guide@jenniferelgammal.com)
- **Guide Monica** broadcasts in *Portuguese* (and English as well). Brazil-born Monica Mello offers virtual London walking tours of Buckingham Palace, Canary Wharf, Westminster Abbey and Greenwich... [www.instagram.com/guidemonica](http://www.instagram.com/guidemonica) [www.monicamello.london](http://www.monicamello.london) Contact: 07856 110938; [monica@monicamello.london](mailto:monica@monicamello.london)
- **Miss Magpie Tours** Lottie Thurlow has a daily live show with stories and songs about London, including sightseeing from the Thames, London parks, and one lady who understood the importance of lockdown – Florence Nightingale. [www.instagram.com/miss\\_magpie\\_tours](http://www.instagram.com/miss_magpie_tours) Contact: 07707 335068; [missmagpietours@gmail.com](mailto:missmagpietours@gmail.com)
- **AnneMarieBBG** has daily posts drawing on her quirky knowledge of Chelsea pensioners, pubs and street names - to name just a few. [www.instagram.com/annemariebbg16](http://www.instagram.com/annemariebbg16) Contact: 07837 524218; [annemariebbg16@gmail.com](mailto:annemariebbg16@gmail.com)
- **Secret London walking tours** Diane Bernstein Lynch has videos about historic spots near her home in Finchley (North London) made during her daily exercise walks. [www.facebook.com/secretlondonwalkingtours.co.uk](http://www.facebook.com/secretlondonwalkingtours.co.uk) [secretlondonwalkingtours.co.uk](http://secretlondonwalkingtours.co.uk) Contact: 07956 108863; [diane@secretlondonwalkingtours.co.uk](mailto:diane@secretlondonwalkingtours.co.uk)
- **Guide Emily** Daily postings of virtual tours of Rotherhithe and a weekly talk on a particular artist with Emily Dell, an artist and a tour guide. [www.instagram.com/guideemily](http://www.instagram.com/guideemily) Contact: 07870 914984; [guideemily@outlook.com](mailto:guideemily@outlook.com)

## **BEYOND LONDON**

- **BBC Radio Merseyside** has guide Paul Beesley on Monday evenings, interviewing fellow Blue Badge guides about aspects and places in the North West – for example the Albert Dock. [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MLvptXB\\_XzY92m9MGMwHxzCHDVz-idAm/view?usp=drivesdk](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MLvptXB_XzY92m9MGMwHxzCHDVz-idAm/view?usp=drivesdk)  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Rc6INnAE8yzlpDIScBXWHkzEM2bkM5-o/view?usp=drivesdk>  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1C8qJe8fhJ93GMjXVq2nF2D2\\_XP6jUX4Q/view?usp=drivesdk](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1C8qJe8fhJ93GMjXVq2nF2D2_XP6jUX4Q/view?usp=drivesdk) Contact: 0151 374 2374; [www.paulbeesley.co.uk](http://www.paulbeesley.co.uk)

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- **Stately Homes** Viv Haxby's talks include Blenheim Palace and Chatsworth, highlighting one favourite item within their collections.  
[www.instagram.com/vivguide2london](https://www.instagram.com/vivguide2london) Contact: 07867 527419; vivhaxby@hotmail.com
- **Everyday Art** Eleanor Jackson celebrates an apposite artwork or artist every day of the year, including referencing those working during Coronavirus.  
[www.facebook.com/EverydayArtEveryday](https://www.facebook.com/EverydayArtEveryday) Contact: 07868 719194; eleanormjackson@yahoo.co.uk
- **Welsh walks** with Amanda Whitehead, including her home town of Conwy.  
[https://www.facebook.com/amandawhiteheadtourguide/?\\_tn=%2CdkCH-R-R&eid=ARAKPp7TZaQO1XTghb2VIUMTW0qm5\\_Au5MU\\_y9ZVgOx3MiP\\_LGx6XqiKEeZLrAFKEvUhs4dCDz5c1IX&hc\\_ref=ARTRRHoi4Pub2NtpcBgXbmgWytpL\\_RMABS-UUpShKZGLo2swAug1l-8BltGYIIUj9MFk&fref=nf&hc\\_location=group](https://www.facebook.com/amandawhiteheadtourguide/?_tn=%2CdkCH-R-R&eid=ARAKPp7TZaQO1XTghb2VIUMTW0qm5_Au5MU_y9ZVgOx3MiP_LGx6XqiKEeZLrAFKEvUhs4dCDz5c1IX&hc_ref=ARTRRHoi4Pub2NtpcBgXbmgWytpL_RMABS-UUpShKZGLo2swAug1l-8BltGYIIUj9MFk&fref=nf&hc_location=group)  
[www.wales-guide.co.uk](http://www.wales-guide.co.uk) Contact: 07876 241160; [walesguide@gmail.com](mailto:walesguide@gmail.com)
- **Beatles-themed tours of Liverpool** and its environs with Jackie Spencer  
[www.youtube.com/channel/UCQKoNGC-tmggvUscDHCxn7A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQKoNGC-tmggvUscDHCxn7A)  
[www.beatleguide.com](http://www.beatleguide.com) Contact: 07990 761478; [jackie@beatleguide.com](mailto:jackie@beatleguide.com)

The Institute of Tourist Guides represents nearly 2,000 qualified guides over the UK, many guiding in a languages other than English. To be a Blue Badge Tourist Guide means undergoing lengthy training courses and having to pass demanding exams before being let loose on the general public.

Marilyn Collis, President of the Institute of Tourist Guiding said "we pride ourselves on being the best tourist guides in the world and we will bounce back introducing a resurgent tourist market to all that our wonderful island nation has to offer."

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For further information about Tourist Guides please contact:

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The **Institute of Tourist Guiding (ITG)** is a professional membership organisation which is committed to developing, maintaining and promoting professional standards in tourist guiding. Blue Badge Tourist Guides train for regions, Green Badge Tourist Guides work in cities and White Badge Tourist Guides work in heritage sites.

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This communication has been assembled and circulated on behalf of the Institute of Tourist Guiding, the British Guild of Tourist Guides, the Association of Professional Tourist Guides and the Driver-Guides Association for their members.

Marilyn Collis - President, Institute of Tourist Guiding  
Elizabeth Eastwood - Chair, British Guild of Tourist Guides  
Danny Parlour - Chair, Association of Professional Tourist Guides  
Angela Akehurst - Chair, Driver Guide Association



THE DRIVER-GUIDES ASSOCIATION