



# CTA enjoys Devon fam trip

If there's one thing you can say about the Coach Tourism Association – its members come from far and wide! So it was that when the CTA embarked on a recent familiarisation trip to Devon the group included coach operators and wholesalers from ten different counties, all keen to see what this particular part of the world had to offer.

Naturally, there were local members on-hand to help, including coach operators Blakes and Viewfinder.

The three-night trip started in Exeter where the group were joined by June Hutchinson of Visit Exeter for an expert's guide to the town. This included a walking tour accompanied by Exeter's Redcoat guides, not to mention a little keep-fit session, ascending to the roof of the cathedral! However, sustenance was provided by the Southgate Hotel for afternoon tea and the Mercure Rougemont hotel was on hand to provide a warm

welcome and an overnight stay.

To show how important the group was, David Blake, the owner of Blakes Coaches, was behind the wheel of day two's transport, which centred around a tour of East Devon attractions, taking in Bicton Botanical Gardens, Seaton Tramway, the Donkey Sanctuary and a boat trip with Stuart Line Cruises. The day ended at Northgate Gate House Hotel, Buckfast, where Anne Blackham gave group members a showcase of Devon tourism attractions and brought along a number of suppliers to talk over tour opportunities during dinner.

The group's Buckfast Abbey hosts then started day three with a private tour, which included the abbey's famous gardens and high-tech museum. After that the members swapped their coach for a bus and were taken through Buckfast village and on to the South Devon Railway for a steam trip to Totnes and back.

The party then moved to

Dartmoor, where they stretched their legs with a walk to Canonteign Falls. This was followed by a 'must-see' visit to Devon's top seaside venue; Torquay, and Livermead Cliff Hotel.

On day four, and with the trip having been joined by Jessica Dowell of the Providence Hotel, the touring was rounded off with visits to Bygones, Babbacombe Village, Kents Cavern and Torre Abbey for the Agatha Christie Exhibition, with a farewell lunch at the Headland Hotel.

Looking back on a very busy four days, the CTA's Communications Director, Helen Bowron, said: "Everyone on the trip agreed that Devon was county that had a great deal to offer, but was not overcrowded. The great advantage of a trip like this is that it gives coach tour operator members of the CTA the chance to experience the countryside, accommodation and attractions of a region first hand, and then be able to network with local providers with a view to setting up tours in the future.



DISTINCTIVE SYSTEMS

## INDUSTRY LEADING SOFTWARE FOR COACH & BUS COMPANIES

Powerful. Affordable. Integrated.



### Coach Manager

Coach Manager is a start to finish solution for the management of private hire and contract work for coach, minibus, chauffeur and community transport operators.



### Tour Booking System

Our Tour Booking System is a complete management solution for individual passenger reservations on extended tours, day excursions and express services.



### Vehicle Maintenance System

Our Vehicle Maintenance System is a purpose designed workshop management and maintenance planning package for vehicles subject to DVSA annual inspection.

**SOFTWARE FROM ONLY £97.50 PER MONTH**

### FREE WALK-AROUND CHECK MOBILE APP

Our new Walk-around Check Mobile App is available completely free of charge† to every operator using Coach Manager, TBS or VMS.

Find out more at [distinctive-systems.com/walk-around](http://distinctive-systems.com/walk-around)



### CONTACT US TO ARRANGE AN ON-SITE DEMONSTRATION

For further details, or to arrange a no obligation demonstration at your own offices

call us on **01904 692269** or email [sales@distinctive-systems.com](mailto:sales@distinctive-systems.com)

[www.distinctive-systems.com](http://www.distinctive-systems.com)



Printed from [Calameo.com](http://Calameo.com)

A licence agreement is required for one of our three main systems (Coach Manager, TBS or VMS).

Apple and the Apple logo are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. App Store is a service mark of Apple Inc.

Google Play and the Google Play logo are trademarks of Google Inc.