

*Sophia Services presents ...*

# In Search of Parzival: Past and Present

with **Sarnia Guiton** and **Rima Meadow**

**April 10—May 2, 2020**

This is a traveling study of the story of Parzival and how it relates to us in our time. What can we learn from it? How can we come closer to an understanding of the Grail? What is the Grail? We invite you to bring your inner sense and knowledge to an exploration of these questions as we travel.

The Grail sites call forth medieval Christian legends of Joseph of Arimathea, Titirel, and Frimutel. These legends set the stage for Parzival's quest in the ninth century, to overcome personal folly and reach compassion and love. Rudolf Steiner relates that Parzival's quest is archetypal for our own; that his stumbling and failings have reason, as do our own; that they are an aspect of striving in a modern initiation path. This is relevant for every one of us in these present times.

The tour encompasses sites where the pre-Christian Hibernian & Druidic streams in Great Britain and Little Britain (Brittany) connect with the Grail stream, in locations identified by Rudolf Steiner and others. We will also explore historical sites connected to Parzival in Slovenia identified by Viktor Stracke, Sergei Prokofieff and Miha Pogacnik. Other sites we visit will bring to us the early medieval mood of Parzival's time.

This is an outer journey as we travel in Wales, England, France, Spain, Switzerland and Slovenia and an inner journey as we individually explore what Parizval's story means to each of us. It will be accompanied and enhanced by storytelling and insights originating from Rudolf Steiner.

Please join us as we explore these mysteries together on this tour.

**A rare opportunity...while in England.**

We have the opportunity to visit Green Knowe, one of the most magical places in England and the oldest continuously occupied residence. Enchanting children's stories have been set in this house. This would be a day trip from London on April 10 – see over for further information.

**see over ...**



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Young people aged 12 and over are welcome with an accompanying adult.

Accommodation will be in monasteries/convents, a retreat center, hotels/hostel, a castle, and ship's seat/cabin and train seat/sleeper. Your choice of overnight boat cabin and train sleeper - options will be given on the booking form.

**Price includes:** all transport including tips, accommodation on twin share basis, admission fees, activities, all breakfasts except on board ship and on arrival in Ljubljana, 3 lunches and 10 dinners.

**Price does not include:** international flights, travel insurance, drinks, items of a personal nature or any services other than those listed. Travel medical insurance is mandatory.

Land only, price in US \$ depending on number of participants.  
24 participants US \$3250    20 participants US \$3530  
16 participants US \$3980. This is subject to change if currency exchange rates change significantly.

Non-refundable deposit of US \$650 will hold your place in the group. Space is limited to 24 and there is a high level of interest – book promptly! **Booking deadline January 10, 2020.**  
Full payment due: February 10, 2020.

Day trip to Green Knowe – \$60 includes train and taxi transport, admission fee & tour.

For full itinerary and further information please contact Sarnia Guiton 604-740-0676 [sarnia@sophiaservices.ca](mailto:sarnia@sophiaservices.ca) or visit the website: [www.sophiaservices.ca](http://www.sophiaservices.ca)

## Glorious Green Knowe!

**April 10** – optional day excursion from London

Most of us know the stories of Narnia.

The stories of Green Knowe by Carnegie winner, Lucy Boston, are less well known, despite their arising out of her clairvoyance. These enchanting, haunting stories have become modern classics, beautifully evoking all the magic and wonder of childhood. Rima's friend, Diana Boston, the daughter-in-law of the author, is a treasure herself, still lives in the house and can tell many amazing stories. We would visit her and hear about the house from the woman who keeps it alive.

Please visit [www.sophiaservices.ca](http://www.sophiaservices.ca) for further information.



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# In Search of Parzival: Past and Present Itinerary

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Story telling and talks almost every day.  
**B** Breakfast – **L** Lunch – **D** Dinner included.

**Fri Apr 10** (Good Friday) Arrive in London – rural accommodation: Bridgettine Convent – 1 night – self-guided nature walk option – D 7:00 pm – followed by Welcome and Orientation Session

**Sat Apr 11** Introductory talk – drive to Wales via Avebury prehistoric stone circle – visit ancient woods – drive through Brecon Beacons National Park – accommodation: Llangasty Retreat Centre – 2 nights. B D

**Sun Apr 12** (Easter) Visits to Welsh medieval castles: Coch – Caerphilly – Ogmere & Cosmeston Medieval Village. B

**Mon Apr 13** Visit Llangasty church, founded by St Gastyn in 450 AD – Llangors hermit island – drive to Wells – visit Cathedral – accommodation: Ancient Gatehouse and White Hart Hotels – 2 nights. B

**Tue Apr 14** Visit Glastonbury Abbey – the Michael Tor – Chalice Well Garden & the Land of Avalon. B

**Wed Apr 15** Drive to the Parish of Morwenstowe – visit 'The Quest of the San Graal' vicar-poet's church & hut – continue to Bude – Boscastle (Cornwall) or cliff top walk to Tintagel – visit Merlin's Cave (depending on tide) – accommodation: quaint hostel/hotel – 1 night. B

**Thu Apr 16** If not possible yesterday – Cliff top walk to Tintagel – visit Merlin's cave – afternoon drive over Bodmin Moor to Plymouth, Devon – cabin overnight on Brittany Ferries to Roscoff, Brittany, France (dinner & breakfast available for purchase on the boat).

**Fri Apr 17** After disembarking – drive thru Forest of Broceliande, noted in the Parzival story, to Paimpont – Tour de Merlin – drive to Lamor-Baden ferry – visit Gavrinis Island neolithic site – stone burial chamber with interior walls covered with artwork – drive to St Gildas de Rhuis – accommodation: monastery – 1 night. D

**Sat Apr 18** Visit the Carolingian basilica in St Philbert de Grand Lieu – travel south by train to Bayonne – accommodation: Maison Diocésaine Guesthouse – 1 night. B

**Sun Apr 19** Early start – drive into Spain to the city of Burgos – visit Medieval Clothing Museum at Monasterio de Santa Maria Real de las Huelgas – continue to Santa Maria de Lara [possible home site of the Grail] – overnight at Valvanera Monastery in the Sierra de la Demanda – 1 night. B D



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- Mon Apr 20** Drive north to San Millan de la Cogolla – Yuso & Suso Monasteries [possible home site of the Grail] – Santo Domingo de la Calzada, on the Camino de Santiago de Compostela – continue on to Yesa for accommodation: Leyre Monastery – 1 night. B D
- Tue Apr 21** Drive to San Juan de la Peña [possible home site of the Grail] – continue over the Pyrenees to Lourdes, France – accommodation: Maison Bellevue Guesthouse – 2 nights. B D
- Wed Apr 22** Explore medieval villages in area around Lourdes – Tillac, Bassouies, Larressingle, La Romieu. B D
- Thu Apr 23** Drive to Bertrand de Comminges – Lugdunum Roman restaurant for lunch with Roman foods (incl.) – continue to Mirepoix — accommodation: Hotel Le Commerce – 2 nights. B L
- Fri Apr 24** Visit Cathar castles: Roquefixade, Montsegur [possible home site of the Grail], Puivert & Montailou, considered to be the last Cathar village. B
- Sat Apr 25** Drive to St Guilhem le Desert & St Martin de Londres – late afternoon train Nîmes to Basel/Dornach – accommodation: Kloster Dornach – 2 nights. B
- Sun Apr 26** Visit L'Hermitage, site in the Parzival story – Goetheanum. B
- Mon Apr 27** Free day – overnight train to Ljubljana, Slovenia. B
- Tue Apr 28:** arr. 08:13 – morning free to explore old city of Ljubljana – 3:00 meet back at station for drive to Terra Parzival area – accommodation: rustic Statenberg Castle – 3 nights. D
- Wed–Thu. Apr 29–30** Visiting sites of Terra Parzival, with Miha Pogacnik (to be confirmed) or alternate. B D
- Fri May 1** Drive to Rudolf Steiner's birthplace & Steiner Centre in Donja Kraljevic – return to Ljubljana – accommodation: Hotel Emonec – 1 night. B
- Sat May 2** Flights home. B



Contact: Sarnia Guiton at [sarnia@sophiaservices.ca](mailto:sarnia@sophiaservices.ca) or 604-740-0676 [www.sophiaservices.ca](http://www.sophiaservices.ca)