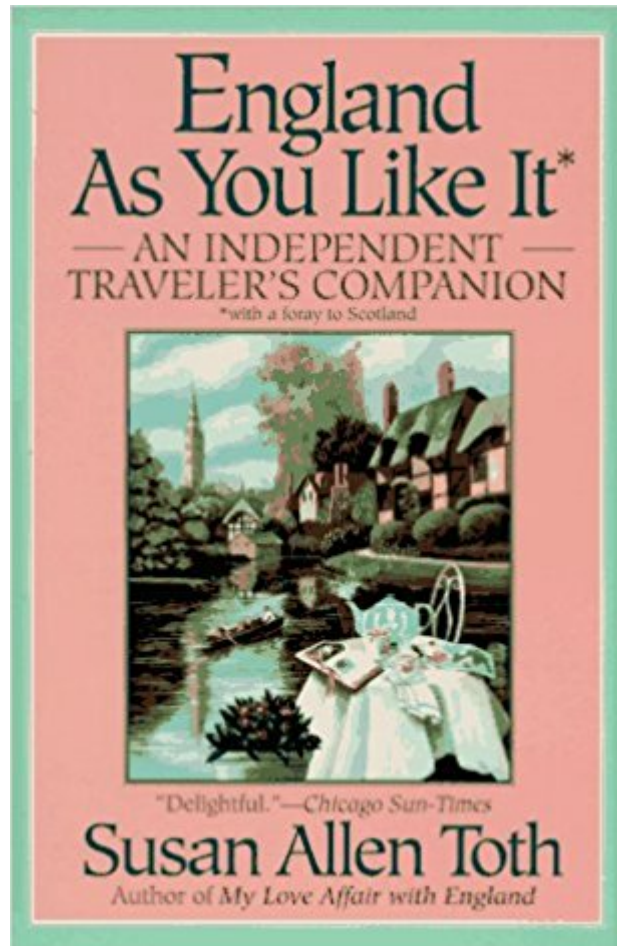




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England As You Like It



Synopsis

"Tucked into the deep hills of western Dorset, just off the major tourist routes across England, Chedington is so small that its handful of cottages doesn't even appear on some large-scale maps. Here, far from crowds that haunt Blenheim Palace, Stonehenge, Stratford-upon-Avon, or Haworth, I find the England of my dreams--quiet, pastoral, and sometimes endearingly eccentric...."Join Susan Allen Toth as she takes you along on her fascinating journeys to London, to enchanting gardens, to a fairy-tale castle on the Cornish coast with a history-laden past--and to sights both hidden and known. With a novelist's eye for detail and an intrepid traveler's love of adventure, Ms. Toth reveals the secrets of impeccable preparation, while leaving plenty of room for surprising discoveries. And ever practical, she offers her experience on how to keep a travel journal, how to be your own travel agent, how much time to allow for your visits, as well as the pleasures of bed-and-breakfasts, supermarket souvenirs, and hidden gardens in the city of London. Lively, trenchant, personal, and above all, entertaining, *England As You Like It* puts the armchair and real-life traveler under the wing of a seasoned and multitalented tour guide."A delightfully written book full of anecdotes and tips, lived and learned by the author. Toth's personable style makes readers feel as though they are actually traveling with her through the charming corners and coves of Great Britain."--The Toronto Sun

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Customer Reviews

Those familiar with Toth's *My Love Affair with England* (LJ 8/92) will readily acknowledge her charming, conversational writing style. Her new book is an excellent combination of guide and

autobiographical travel writing that will benefit both armchair and potential travelers while entertaining them at the same time. Toth is a strong believer in planning one's own itinerary; her "thumbprint theory of travel" encourages leisurely travel and well-planned exploration of small areas. To enforce this concept, she gives readers a collection of travel essays that recap journeys to Padstow, Helston, and Chedington in England as well as Gairloch and Nairn in Scotland. She concludes with highlights of eight of her favorite destinations. What is most striking about Toth's book is her ability to weave a wealth of information throughout a highly readable text.

Recommended as a worthwhile addition to any library travel section. Jo-Anne Mary Benson, Osgoode, Ontario
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"Tucked into the deep hills of western Dorset, just off the major tourist routes across England, Chedington is so small that its handful of cottages doesn't even appear on some large-scale maps. Here, far from crowds that haunt Blenheim Palace, Stonehenge, Stratford-upon-Avon, or Haworth, I find the England of my dreams--quiet, pastoral, and sometimes endearingly eccentric...."Join Susan Allen Toth as she takes you along on her fascinating journeys to London, to enchanting gardens, to a fairy-tale castle on the Cornish coast with a history-laden past--and to sights both hidden and known. With a novelist's eye for detail and an intrepid traveler's love of adventure, Ms. Toth reveals the secrets of impeccable preparation, while leaving plenty of room for surprising discoveries. And ever practical, she offers her experience on how to keep a travel journal, how to be your own travel agent, how much time to allow for your visits, as well as the pleasures of bed-and-breakfasts, supermarket souvenirs, and hidden gardens in the city of London. Lively, trenchant, personal, and above all, entertaining, *England As You Like It* puts the armchair and real-life traveler under the wing of a seasoned and multitalented tour guide."A delightfully written book full of anecdotes and tips, lived and learned by the author. Toth's personable style makes readers feel as though they are actually traveling with her through the charming corners and coves of Great Britain."--The Toronto Sun

I gave Susan Allen Toth's first travel memoir about Great Britain, *My Love Affair with England*, five stars. It was what I had hoped Ms. Joan Cornblath's "Beyond the Tower: London for Return Travellers" would be. This, the second book chronologically in her series of three, was a bit of a letdown after that stellar beginning, though it is still an enjoyable read if you are missing England and would like to read some affectionate reminiscences. There is a bit too much about gardens and

fauna for my taste (though in a testament to the principle of "less is more" the anecdotes of the earlier book have inspired me to add some English gardens to my next itinerary). I love forests but don't necessarily want to read about them in such detail. There is some very good information about various British map series and suggestions for obtaining them. NB: When reading I had thought the suggestions probably out-of-date, i.e. with the opportunity to buy materials at .com.uk, but when I checked it out I didn't find very many maps available online, on at least. Perhaps that will change, or maybe they are available from the publisher online. I hope so. The editor and author may want to consider adding this information to a later edition. There is also good information about various options for accommodation, and the author goes a long way toward demystifying self-catering holiday rentals (reserving a furnished apartment or home). Her observations on souvenir shopping in British grocery stores is charming, and her suggestions on journal keeping and thumbprint travel are pragmatic. In the third section of the book, "Special Places", I was not totally pleased with the author's choices of which places to cover. Though I understand that she can only write about where she has actually been, many were very similar to things she had already discussed in the first book. A lot of useful information and a good index.

A different point of view than most travel books. If you are looking for the road less traveled, you might find it here.

So far, this book is absolutely incredible. The amount of detail is a bit baffling at first, better too much than too little. It gives suggestions for how to find excellent hotels and B&B's, good maps, restaurants, there are even suggestions on packing and keeping a travel journal. We're leaving for the British Isles in a matter of days, and I've been planning for the last 9 months. It would have been so much easier if I'd had this book. I can't wait to start planning our next trip. I don't like to use travel agents because it's been my experience that unless you are paying them to plan your entire vacation, you will be far from the top of their priorities list. Also, it's so much fun to plan your own vacation. This book is invaluable.

Great writer.

I've read a few books by this author and they have been very informative. She's given me some great ideas for future trips. I like the "off the beaten path" approach.

Great book, great reading, if you love England as I do. I also read 'My Love Affair with England'. Can't wait to go back there myself...

Thank you so much Ms Toth. After finishing England As You Like It, I joined the Royal Horticulture Society, received my copy of The National Trust Holiday Cottages, and then rented one for next month. I signed up for Consumer Reports Travel Letter. Just as I was about to rent a car for my upcoming holiday the newsletter arrived with all the information I needed to be an informed rental car customer. I have just about finished another of your wonderful books, England for All Seasons. I keep my road Atlas of Great Britain handy and look up all the places you so lovely talk about. Hoping as I turn each page that each one will be on the path that I have planned for this year's trip. I say this year because I know now that I can not see it all in one trip but to enjoy it the way you do, the way I know I will, I must slow down and savor each country walk or garden stroll. I have made many changes to my vacation plans to incorporate some of the places you describe, thank you so much for your wealth of knowledge. These months of planning have truly been a part of the trip that started for me when I first opened your book. I have been to England on two other occasions. Now with your wealth of knowledge added to my past experience this next trip should be lovely.

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