

# ***Jean's and Carl's Images from A Visit to Stonehenge, UK ( an optional side trip of INRC 2016 )***

*by Carl Helmers*

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[Hyperlinks Caveat](#)

From July 10 to the morning of July 13, Jean attended sessions of INRC 2016 in Bath, England. One of the selling points of the INRC Bath UK organizers for this year's location was the opportunity for a trip from Bath to visit the [English Heritage](#) site of Stonehenge.

When Jean had finished her personal participation in the 2016 International Narcotics Conference, at about Noon on July 13, we joined some INRC attendees and others on a tour bus for the hour-long trip each way from Bath to Stonehenge with the local tour company:



This trip was in a highway bus across the countryside of southwest England.

The trip ended in the parking lot on the other side of this building, the Stonehenge Visitor Center:



***Stonehenge Visitor Center with a local Shuttle Bus for last mile to stones***

*( I cut-n-pasted this image from some Stonehenge oriented WWW site found with Google.)*

We passed through Stonehenge Visitor Center building, picked up personal “audio tour” guides then on to one of many local on-site buses. These buses took us on the last mile or so of travel to the actual object of our visit, Stonehenge itself. Hordes of visitors (see remaining pictures) have long come from around the world to visit the ancient stones. These days they visit under fairly structured conditions designed by the English Heritage folks to minimize any further wear and tear on the ancient relics or the surrounding grassy parkland.

While Stonehenge has survived several millenia since erection after pagan astronomical forecasting technology and rituals were developed after the last ice age, the English Heritage folks do not want to have any further deterioration to occur from present / future visitors! So we all boarded the local shuttle bus for a mile or so trip from the parking lot / visitor center to the actual site. What follows are a few of the images that Jean and I captured during our walk around the site itself. As first time visitors with a tourist group we chose shuttle bus option provided; some adventurous visitors simply followed signage to walk the mile or two to the stones.



A wide cropped view of Stonehenge July 13, 2016. Note the many other visitors walking the paths in all of our images!





This view shows the well planned and executed Stonehenge site. At the Visitor Center before hopping the local shuttle, visitors each were handed a computer with a multi-lingual (choose one) audio self tour guide application. These self-tour guides hung as pendants around our necks, with keyboards to call up narrations. While walking around the site, keying in numbers on tags would play a few minutes of narration about the view point in question.





Here is a picture I captured of Jean capturing a cellphone image of the “heel stone” of Stonehenge, a separate stone from the main ring of Stonehenge. [See this [Wikipedia heel stone](#) reference for details. ]

This image also shows what I conclude is how the well designed and managed site minimizes wear and tear from its hordes of visitors: visitors walk only on movable walkways with no actual walking on the fragile grass underneath. Since the walkways are clearly movable, walkway positions can be periodically moved to manage access of sunlight to the grass temporarily shaded by the walkways!



Here is proof that I visited Stonehenge. Jean captured this image of me with Stonehenge in the background. Note my “audio tour” guide computer hanging from my neck with its screen and application software control buttons facing away from me.





Jean pauses for moment in front of this final sign as we walked from the site itself to the local shuttle bus to return us to the Stonehenge Visitor Center and the tour bus back to downtown Bath.

Follow this link for the [Wikipedia entry on Stonehenge](#) and its history.

The Stonehenge site is maintained by [English Heritage](#); the [surrounding land](#) is owned by the U.K.'s [National Trust](#).

### ***Hyperlinks Caveat***

At and after the *epoch* of publishing the latest update of this article on my site, to the best of my knowledge all hyperlinks still point to the WWW pages I intend.

Carl Helmers

