

Just a line to say what a great visit it was to Longleat on Saturday. The weather, although grey, wasn't too unkind and it certainly didn't impact on the enjoyment. We had good views of most of the animals on our trip around the Safari park, and I am sure that the coach company's decision to ban the Monkey enclosure from its itinerary was a wise one, having seen them take free rides on many of the cars choosing to risk it!!! No tigers unfortunately, but the lions were on the prowl and it was nice to see them from the safety of the coach. The wolves were also having a lazy day, but seemed content to sleep off the grey day as a pack. Either that or they had just been fed!



We then went off to do our own thing and there was certainly plenty to choose from. We chose to visit the house and learnt that the Safari park started with a request to the Local Council to erect a fence to contain the wild animals. There was a huge issue at the time with deer from the Longleat estate roaming the area, so the Council, ready to do anything to keep the wild deer at bay, readily gave permission. Little did they know that one of Lord Bath's friends was a guy called Chipperfield, and soon the lions appeared!! Although the locals were furious there was little they could do about it. The rest is history.



After lunch it was almost time for the Festival of Lights to begin and what a splendid display it proved to be - an amazing collection of floodlit models depicting popular nursery rhymes. The time simply flew by and we soon had to return to the coach for our return journey. Thanks Chris for organising a super day out. Can't wait for next year.



Thanks Geoff

“Dawn and I really enjoyed the day at Longleat. Loved the animals and lights. I thought the house was a bit dark but in character for the period. We had some laughs in the bygones exhibition- I remembered using or seeing parents and grandparents using many of the items.. I had a rubber stamp holder on my desk at work before I retired and it was just like the one on the desk in the display.”