

LITERARY ROUTES IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

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Abstract

This study deals with literary journeys and how they affect tourism and at the same time the local economy and the flow of society. Literary routes spread through literary tourism. With a case study by Sherlock Holmes, this research aims to explain to the reader why this hero became so famous and how he influenced the world through his literary works, but also through his routes. Initially, are placed some of Sir Arthur's Conan Doyle ideas and how he created this hero. Then follows the profile of the hero, his literary journeys, and finally their effects.

Keywords: *Literary Routes, England, Literary Tourism, Sherlock Holmes, London, disability*

1. How the literary hero Sherlock Holmes was born

Arthur Conan Doyle made his work in the 19th century, he was one great writer that breakthrough during the age of social-economic changes, in those years that lead to the transition from classic to modern. He was opposed to the trend of literary realism, he strongly supported the concept of imagination in collaboration with empiricism (Saler, 2013). A great supporter of modernization, leaning on the boundaries of the concept of secularization, always confused and in a constant search to declare the actual meaning of "modern", facts which can be seen in a number of his works, like Sherlock Holmes.

The main reasons, that led Conan Doyle to create such a hero, in addition to the perceptions mentioned above, were the difficulties of the time. In short, at that time there was intense criminality, poverty and other problems due to urban overpopulation. Don't forget the fact that they were still trying to recover from World War I. The class form of society was also so intense that it sparked the development of ideologies such as anarchy and feminism (Thomas, 2002). All of the above elements led Doyle to create something that will overcome the difficulties of everyday life and help people forget. Something that definitely succeeded ... But why?

Basic aspects of Sherlock Holmes personality were introversion and mystery. These two elements remained "steadfast pillars" in the creation of his later evolutionary characters. His original image (19th century) compared to the images that presented over the years had

noticeable differences. His solitude and egocentrism, especially during the 20th century, was evolved in a way that he becomes a darker character, prisoned with his demons such as constant search of drugs and prostitutes. Sherlock, or as he was used to be called "master problem solver", stood out for his abilities (Ballew, 1994). His intelligence, observation, and mathematical mind were those that led him to solve countless problems. He used many methods, mainly the method of abstractism. Also, his perspicacity and speed in solving mathematical formulas quickly made him an intellect of his kind. For the above reasons, it should be investigated in further research whether Sherlock Holmes had an autism spectrum disorder or Asperger's syndrome (sherlockcharacterconfessions.tumblr.com). It cannot go unnoticed that when Doyle published Sherlock's death in *The Strand* magazine in 1893, the reaction of the people was very bad. At least 20,000 people cancelled their subscription to the magazine, and various clubs/associations have been set up to keep him "alive" (Armstrong, 2016). From that moment, fanaticism towards the hero began to develop, especially after 1903, when the play that resurrected Holmes "The Adventure of the Empty House" was written. This fact will be exploited, mainly from the beginning of the 20th century onwards, to increase tourism and therefore to improve the economy and other levels.

2. England and literary tourism

If we take as a guide that in the 19th century in England the world of literary tourism began being built with rapid steps, as a consequence of this is its expansion slowly all over the world. Literary tourism deals with many elements of culture, which is why the correlation with cultural tourism is direct (Manola, 2020c). With some important steps that took place, we can refer to the evolution of (literary tourism). These steps were based on literary works, commonly known as literature. Many books that were once not considered to belong to the art of literature, over time became part of it. The concept of literature is no longer used to promote moral behavior but as an aesthetic experience (Manola et al., 2020a). For this reason, in our case, Sherlock may have started as a simple figure, but as we have seen, the artistic aspects he has touched and continues to until this day are varied and strongly related to the concept of experience. Apart from literature, cinema, television, theater, and many other printed or non-printed genres, he has managed to do something quite interesting, to be "represented" through literary paths. These extensive and widespread routes in the world, also function as a conduit for attracting tourists, but from another perspective, they reflect the "life" of the mysterious researcher. Even the thought that they may feel as he would hypothetically feel, causes great awe to the visitors, so they can feel like protagonists (Manola et al., 2020b).

So, since England is the most important destination to visit, it stands to reason for most routes to take place there. With a case study of the explorer Holmes, his main monuments and the "Sherlockian Tours" worldwide will be mentioned, through a short, mental tour. They are mainly based on books and movies.

3. Case Study: The places and spaces of Sherlock Holmes

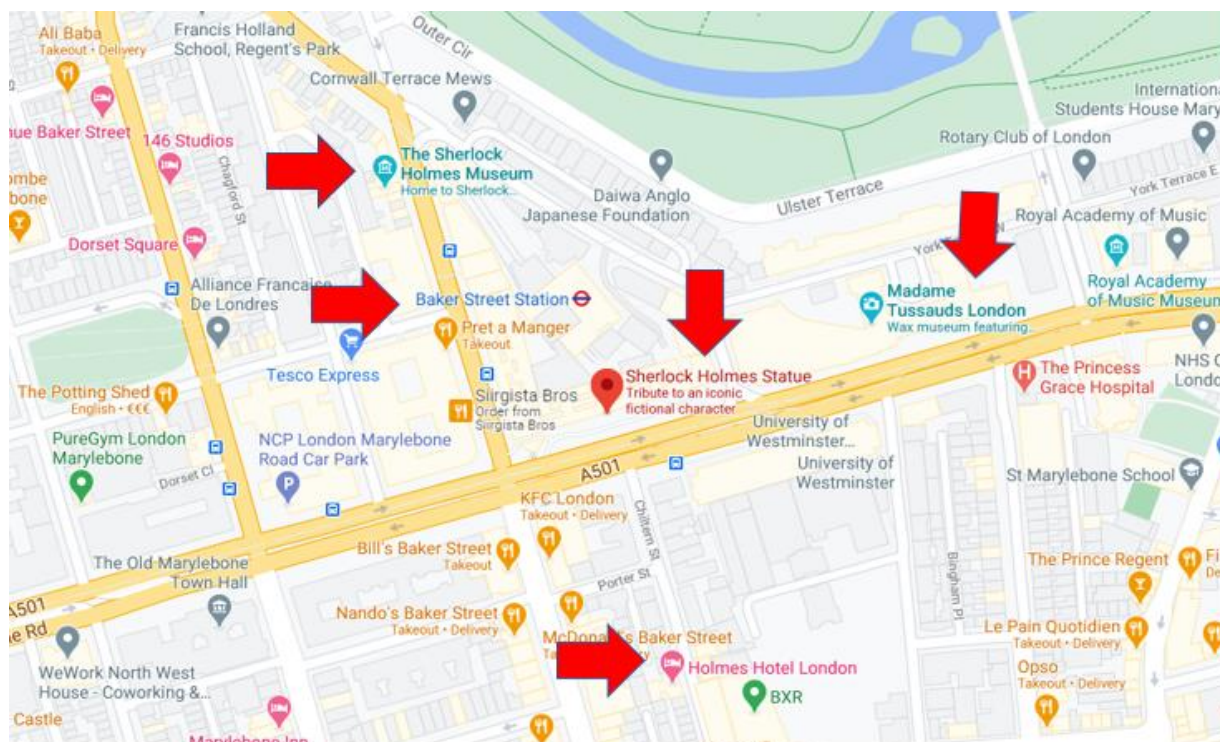
These routes include places such as museums, streets, restaurants, hotels, and much more. In other words, they are the points that have been connected with the hero or the writer, either because they visited them, or because a crime was investigated there, or simply because they passed from there. There are countless monuments and explorers and writers around the world. Therefore, the most important of England, focusing on London, will be mentioned below.

A landmark in central London is the statue of Sherlock Holmes outside Baker Street Station. It was built in 1999 by John Doubleday, as the hero lived nearby, on Baker Street. It

is accessible and easy for everyone to observe. Next to the station is the "Sherlock Holmes Experience" at the Madame Tussauds wax museum. It contains rooms, decorated like some scenes of the works, actors, narratives, sound effects. It is an adventure that leads visitors to some of the most famous places and moments from the stories, such as the hero's living room. It is also suitable for people with special needs (encoretickets.co.uk) There are also evening performances in which the audience participates, trying to investigate crimes or even discover Sherlock himself, through information provided by the actors (madametussauds.com). You will also find a wax model of the actor Benedict Cumberbatch who played/portrayed Sherlock in the BBC series (2010-2017).

On the other side of Baker Street Station, at 221B Baker Street, we can find the Sherlock Holmes Museum, a remarkable landmark for London tourism. It consists of 4 floors that maintain the Victorian style of decoration of the time. The first floor is for those who want to buy a souvenir. On the second floor, we can see his bedroom and office. In the third, follows the room of his collaborator, Dr. Watson, with many medical books and in the fourth, there are wax figures from the main characters, Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, and Moriarty. The Museum has the largest collection of gifts and souvenirs from Holmes in the world. (sherlock-holmes.co.uk) It houses a large collection of souvenirs for Conan Doyle and Sherlock that exhibited in two exhibitions: "A Study in Sherlock" and "You Don't Know Sherlock, Yet", which are located on the ground floor of the Museum (visitengland.com).

Then, crossing the main Marylebone Rd, across from Baker Street, there is the Holmes Hotel (hospitalitynet.org) which is quite sophisticated and features colors similar to the explorer's house, brown - beige. It should not be omitted to visit Sherlock Grillroom, for food and the Sherlock bar room.

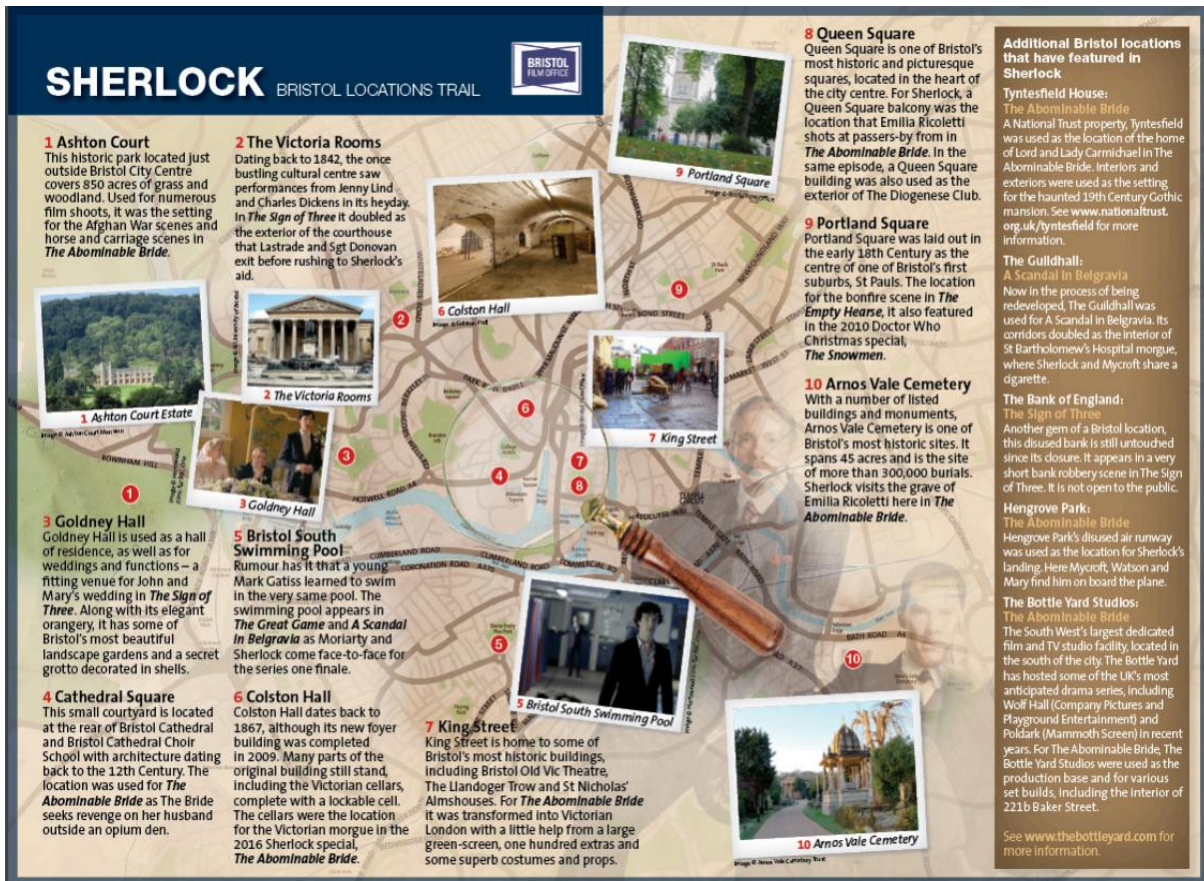


Picture 1: GOOGLE MAPS + Personal details

For anyone who wants something alternative, there are also themed Escape rooms. It is an interactive experience that contains actors, effects, theatrical, etc. (madametussauds.com). One of the most famous is "Sherlock: The game is now". It contains 3 rooms with Sherlock. The "Private escape room", the "Case of the Poisoned Chalice" and the "Sherlock: the official

outdoor game" (thegameisnow.com). It is suitable for people over 10 years old and it can be found on the west side of Shepherd's Bush Green Park. A little further north from the Sherlock Museum, there is also the room: "Finding Detective Sherlock Holmes". The main concern of the players is to find Sherlock, who has been kidnapped by Moriarty.

Going west of London we meet some places that are very well known due to the BBC series (2010-1017). One location like this, is Queen Street, Bath, where an entire filming room was set up. This street contains buildings of the same colour tones, brown, beige, black. Next, we move on to Bristol which used several parts of it. With the following map created by Bristol films, we understand the whole route and anyone can easily follow it.



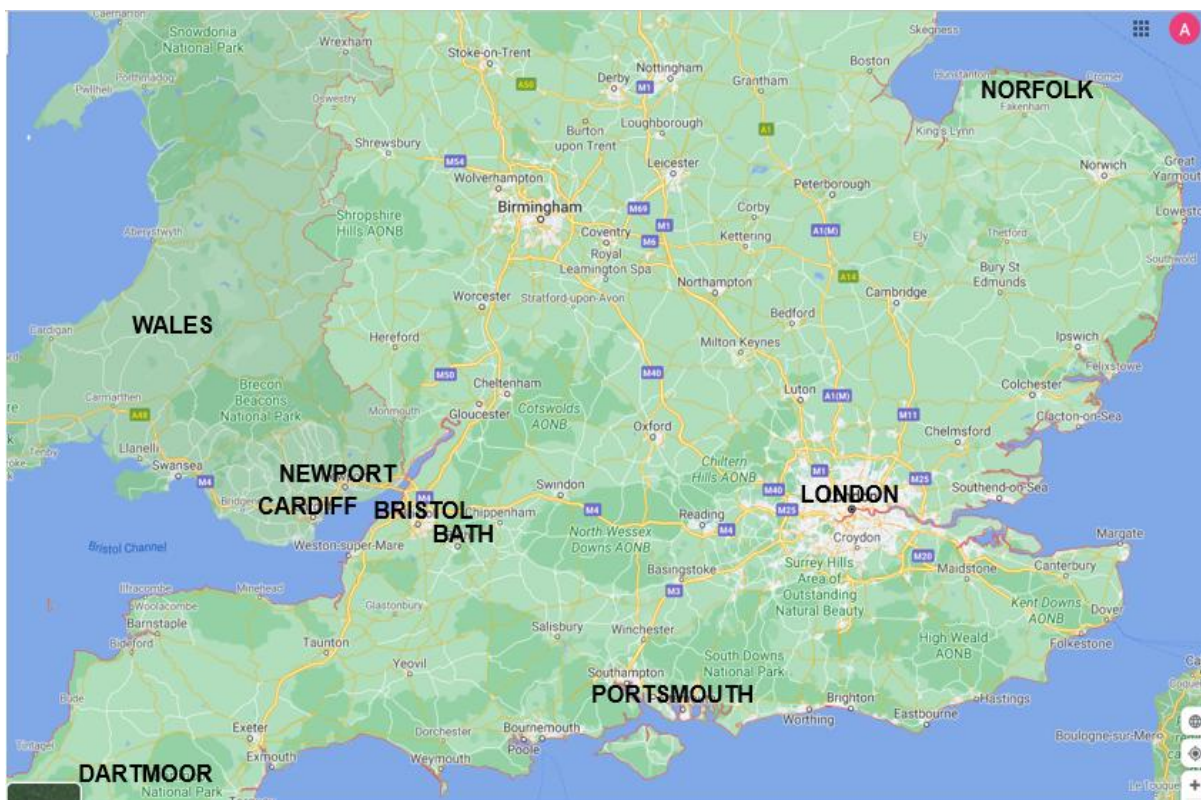
Picture 2: Source:<http://filmbristol.co.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Sherlock-Bristol-Locations-Trail-FINAL.pdf>

Then we continue to Newport, a place with quite a lot of touristic traffic, especially in Saint Woollos Cemetery, which is said to be Sherlock's tombstone, but actually, it is not in that place. We are now moving completely west of London. Especially, there it is the Castle of St. Cardiff in Wales, where a scene with Moriarty was filmed. As well as the National Museum in Wales. Something more exotic, the Three Bears cave. It is harder to find, but through the path, the visitor will find the places where the series were shot.

A common fact is the combined routes, that is the visit to a place and later to a restaurant or food store visited by the hero or the writer. Such is the Baskerville Hall Hotel in Wales, where the author often stayed as a family friend, and the Speedy's Cafe, which is in a short distance to Sherlock's house on Baker Street and used to dine there (Sherlock).

In addition, the places where the author was inspired by some of his works are noteworthy, which are visited by many tourists to understand his way of thinking. One of these places is the city of Portsmouth, located south of London. There Doyle wrote his first

two stories with Sherlock, "A Study in Scarlet" (1887) and "The sign of four" (1890). The free museum in Portsmouth has the largest permanent exhibition dedicated to him (visitbritain.com). He then visited the Dartmoor Hills in south-west London in 1901 and was inspired by their wild beauty, The Hound of Baskervilles. More specifically, he stayed at "The Duchy Hotel" in Princetown, the current Highland Moorland Visitor Center. He also visited Norfolk (north London), where he wrote "The Adventure of the Dancing Men", part of "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1905). "Places where literary works were created or writers were born or lived have always attracted literary pilgrims." (Iwashita, "Media Representation of the UK", 60).



Picture 3: Source: GOOGLE MAPS + Personal details

Furthermore, there are statues of him in Edinburgh and a theme hotel in Latvia. "Sherlock Art Hotel" is located in the Old Town of Riga, a 3-minute walk from Riga Cathedral. It is decorated to a large extent, like the house of the hero.

At a glance, these literary journeys have created a new kind of tourism, called "Sherlockian tourism". This has made England, and especially London, a country and a city, respectively, with great cultural richness and interest, which we must not forget was built on something fantastic - or not -... Through this type of tourism, people experience London through the eyes of Sherlock Holmes, which brings a different meaning to London (Lee, 2020).

Specifically, 221B Baker Street that we mentioned, which as we know it was not a real street but was established by the Municipality, is considered one of the most visited streets in London (Manola, 2019), due to a large mass of its supporters and ordinary fans over a century they want to see up close the place where their hero lived (Van & Reijnders, 2013). At this point, it should be noted again that the prevailing view was that Sherlock was a real person. That is why, especially today, there is a mimetic attitude or, more gently, a mood. For example, even at the Sherlock Holmes Museum in London, which many people visit, they

dress in a way similar to Sherlock (Wijaya 2015). "It is a deliberate endeavour to turn personal and embodied experiences of actual-world places into extensions of Holmes's fictional world - and to influence fellow Sherlockians' imaginative encounters with that world - that are the hallmarks of this practice."(McLaughlin, 2017). In simple words, readers / viewers or just explorers have an inner need in their subconscious, which has certainly been caused by the content of Sherlock's stories, but also by its intense re-release over the years. As the idea of continuing "a search to find the supposed true nature of the city" develops.

In the immediate aftermath of the release of Sherlock Holmes, it is reported that approximately 70,000 visitors visit the Victorian property each year. However, there were also reactions from the locals regarding the overpopulation and the possibility that England could not manage it.

Epilogue

The idea of Sherlock Holmes in the 1880s came as something innovative and modernist that confronted 19th century literary naturalism that emitted a pessimistic view of human life. The main reasons why this particular enigmatic person became so famous and is being re-released to this day, are because it was different from the circumstances at the time, it was something different and bold. It was the background of the creation of his fictional idea. At the same time, its commercialization all these years has led to the increase in the importance of many sites through literary tourism. "Authentic" experiences were created through Sherlock, but it also helped the global economy, as well as changed the way of thinking.

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