



## Discovery Tours International

*"Touching the Hand of History"*

### "Detecting Tour 2010"

#### THE FIRST & ORIGINAL METAL DETECTING TOUR TO ENGLAND

#### *2010 WILL BE OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR*

2010 will be Discovery Tours' 20th consecutive year devoted to introducing Americans to the thrill of metal detecting in England. We took the first group of detectorists in September of 1991 and since then over 50% of our participants have returned two, three, four and as many as 16 times. The increasing number of returnees attests to the success of our trips and encourages us to continue with our venture. It has always been our goal to balance detecting time with important time spent learning about the history and archaeology of the sites we detect and the coins and artifacts we recover. This is why we have skilled experts identify all of our finds and inform us through on site visits and programs. I feel detecting is a hollow experience if we do not fully understand and learn to appreciate the culture that produced the items which we dig. We hunt on different fields each day and rarely repeat a field from year to year unless it has proven to be productive. Our finds are not only identified & recorded by our staff but our own archaeologist provides a detailed description of each item before it is sent to the Norwich Castle Museum for a final check. Export licenses are then obtained & the fully identified finds are shipped to the finder via Jimmy Sierra.

#### *Coins and Artifacts are Found From a Span of Over 3000 Years*

Our groups have found coins and relics from every period of English History dating from the Bronze Age (1800BC-700 BC) through Celtic, Roman, Saxon, Viking and Medieval to more recent times. Even though most participants may keep everything they find, except when restricted by the UK Treasure Act, some have opted to donate various historically significant items to local museums. We work closely with field archaeologists and museum curators and they are very grateful for our donations & genuinely interested in our finds.

#### *Research is the Key to Success*

My colleagues in England are David Barwell and his wife Trish. I am extremely fortunate to have David to work with, as he is not only highly skilled at researching historical locations for detecting, but he is one of the few English detectorists selected to work with the Parliamentary Committee that designed the very important 1996 Treasure Bill. Because of his unique qualifications he has been able to develop a close relationship with the British Museum & many local museums, a relationship which is very beneficial to the success of our tours. David is past Chairman of the UK National Council of Metal Detecting. Our Finds Expert, Phil Talbot & Farmer Liaison and Driver, David McMasters, complete our staff.

**Jimmy "Sierra" Normandi**

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## *East Anglia is Rich in History*

One of the amazing surprises on our first tour to East Anglia was the quality of the coins found. We have always had good luck detecting on all of our tours, but the past 10 years stand out in regard to the condition of the coins found. From the "greenies" (17th to 20th century coppers) to the Medieval Hammered Silver coins, the faces and inscriptions were stronger than we have ever experienced before in England. Not only were they in excellent shape, but the volume of hammered coins found was far greater than on any previous tours. In addition, we detected more large denomination hammered coins, such as shillings, groats and half groats than we would normally expect. There are a number of reasons that might explain this. Many of the fields that we detect have never been detected before and larger coins are always the first to go. In addition, the soil in East Anglia is much easier on copper, bronze and silver than other parts of England. East Anglia was heavily populated during the Middle Ages and after the bulk of the population died during the Black Plague, the population never returned. We usually find our share of Roman Coins as well. In fact, we have found Roman sites which the museum did not know of. On our 2009 tour we found over 400 artefacts, a number of which were prized Saxon brooches. Over the years a number of our participants have chosen to contribute important finds to the Castle Museum in Norwich and these are displayed in a special showcase. We can never promise what you will find, but you can always be assured that David will use his research skills to select the best possible fields and that we will always provide an honest day's detecting. In other words, no one has touched the coins or artefacts you might find since they were lost or buried hundreds or even thousands of years ago.

## *Our Home is in East Anglia, County of Norfolk*

Our home base is at the Norwich Holiday Inn and it is fantastic. The Holiday Inn is a Four Star Hotel and it has lived up to all our expectations. The staff is not only friendly, but has made every effort to accommodate our every need. The gourmet food is outstanding. There are many amenities including indoor pool, exercise room, pub, lounge, etc. The hotel has only three floors and we pretty much take over the place. We try to have an entertaining and informative program on each tour presented by an archaeologist from the museum. Besides the 8 days of detecting, we try to schedule a visit to an interesting site or museum during the trip from the airport hotel to our hotel in Norwich. This year, John Davies, the curator at the Norwich Museum, has offered to give us a guided tour of the archaeological dig at Burgh Castle. We can do this on the way to our hotel from the airport. If you have not visited England before, you may wish to stay on after the tour and visit the many attractions. The British Museum, The Museum of London, The Tower of London, Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, Covent Gardens, Harrod's Department Store, the theater district ....and on and on. If you decide to do this, our agent in London, Operation Europe, will be happy to help you with arrangements for hotels, etc. Be sure to inform me of your plans for early arrival or late departure ahead of time. As you note, on our General Information sheet, rooms are billed as double occupancy. If you do not have a room mate, we will do our best to match you up with another participant. If you desire or require a single room, you will note that there is a single supplement surcharge. In addition if you are traveling with a partner please indicate your preference as to a double bed or twin beds.

### *Travel Arrangements are made by Skilled Professionals*

For the past few years flight delays have caused a great deal of difficulty in arranging our coach pickups at the Airport. Therefore, we have added one day to the tour, so that we will have you fly into England ( either Heathrow or Gatwick ) and we have arranged for your first night's stay at an airport hotel. Your room and breakfast on the morning we pick you up is included in the tour cost. We will then pick all of you up together the next morning at each hotel and travel to Norfolk on one coach together. In this way it does not matter if your flight is late or not and you can schedule your flight to arrive at any time of the day. Remember, unless you are on a "red eye" from the East Coast, your flight will arrive the calendar day after your departure. All of our ground arrangements are made for us by Jeremy Hawes of Operation Europe Ltd., one of London's most reputable and skilled Travel and Tour companies. We have found that by working with fully accredited professionals we and our customers always get high quality service and excellent value. You will find the dates of our tour in 2010 on the enclosed questionnaire. If you have any questions you can always email or phone me.

### *What if Your Detector Breaks Down !*

What if you bring a partner who doesn't own a detector! Not to worry! I keep extra detectors on hand for such emergencies ... top of the line White's units, of course, Spectrums , XLT, DFX & MXT. In the last 19 years, I have never had to use all of the spares at one time. In addition, I provide special 240volt nicad chargers for those using White's rechargeable nicads. Of course, if you have a backup detector, bring it along. If you use a detector other than a White's, check with your manufacturer for availability of charging systems if you use rechargeable batteries. England has 220-240 volt output not 110-120volt as the US.

### *We Have Always Taken the High Road*

Some of you may have read notices in the magazines and on the internet cautioning about the rules and regulations regarding metal detecting in England. British Heritage, the guardian of English history, has raised concerns about foreign detectorists not following these rules. As stated in our advertising, we are acknowledged as the Only Known Detecting Tour abiding by the Code of Conduct of the National Council for Metal Detecting (NCMD), the Recording Requirements of the '96 Treasure Bill and the new Export Requirements of the English Government. In plain English, we are the **ONLY** detecting tour doing it completely **CORRECT** and following the Law to the letter. We have always worked closely with both the local museums and the British Museum. A recent article in "British Archaeology Newsletter" confirms our unique position by stating that we are "regarded as entirely above board by Government Officials". In fact, we have been praised in a recent article written by an English archaeologist for **ARCHAEOLOGY** magazine, published by the Archaeological Institute of America. We were recommended by the British Museum as the "best example of responsible detecting". Finds are identified by our staff, checked by our field archaeologist, digitally photographed, entered into our computer database & passed to our own museum archaeologist for final identification for the Norwich Museum. After our staff completes all of the forms, they are submitted to Customs for Export Licenses. When the licenses are received, Phil ships all finds to me in the USA by Recorded mail and I ship them to each finder by Insured Registered Mail. *I hope you will decide to join us this year on our 20th Anniversary ..... Jimmy Sierra*

SOME OF THE FINDS FROM 2009 DTI TOUR TO NORWICH



**Henry VIII Half Groat  
Silver Hammered Penny**  
Recovered by Keith R.



**Head of Saxon Brooch**  
6th Century  
Recovered by Brad J.



**Henry VIII 1509-47  
Hammered Gold Angel**  
Recovered by Ed O.



**6th Century Anglo Saxon  
Cruciform Brooch**  
Recovered by Herb P.



**3,000 Year Old Bronze Age Axe Head**  
1000 - 600 B.C.

Recovered by Jimmy Sierra



**Cross Belt Buckle**  
17th Century  
Recovered by Keith R



**Henry VII 1485-1509  
Hammered Gold Angel**  
Recovered by Hal M.



**Bronze Door Key**  
13th Century ( Lg)  
Recovered by Gus .D.

**SOME OF THE FINDS FROM 2009 DTI TOUR TO NORWICH**



**14th Century  
Annular Ring Brooch  
Recovered by Keith R**



**10th Century Viking  
Disc Brooch  
Recovered by Hal M**



**15th Century Pilgrim  
Ampulla complete  
Recovered by James F**



**1st Century BC Celtic Gold Stater  
Iceni Tribe  
Recovered by Mike M**



**Gold Noble of Edward III  
1327-1377 AD  
Recovered by Bud B**



**Roman Buckle & Plate  
1st - 2nd Century AD  
Recovered by John L**



**6th Century AD Saxon  
Head of Bow Brooch  
Recovered by Jimmy Sierra**



**10th Century Zoomorphic  
Stirrup Terminal  
Recovered by Don M**