



## Book Recommendations

Looking for something to read, before or during the trip, that will enhance your experience? Check out our suggestions below!

### **Dracula by Bram Stoker**

The classic! If you read one book from this list, make it this one—many of the sights we visit in England will have significance related to this book. (Of course we'll fully explain things if you haven't read it—no worries!)

### **The Vampyre by John Polidori**

The one that started it all! This short story was the first published English-language work of vampire fiction, almost eighty years before Bram Stoker's novel! You'll see some intriguing comparisons ... and contrasts! ... with later (to us, more recognizable) vampire tropes.

### **Carmilla by Sheridan la Fanu**

In this novella, which predates *Dracula* by 26 years, a young woman is preyed upon by a vampire named Carmilla. Le Fanu's use of a female character as his vampire was in line with the currents developing in vampire literature in the mid 19th-century, but the eroticized relationship between the two leading female characters—while fairly tame to a 21st-century reader—was scandalous at the time.

### **The Vampire Lestat by Anne Rice**

The second in the *Vampire Chronicles* series, this “autobiography” takes place in and around 18<sup>th</sup>-century Paris. It leads us on Lestat's journey from his start as an impoverished nobleman yearning to be on the stage, to a charismatic and powerful undead monster, with both wealth and regrets beyond measure.

### **The Historian by Elizabeth Kostova**

Liz's personal favorite book of all time, *The Historian* blends the history of the real count Vlad Țepeș of Wallachia with classic vampire fiction. The main character's search for her father, and his hunt for Dracula, take the reader all over the European continent.