

HELEN KLEIN ROSS

Coach Tour

We woke to snow. Then, we had to fight off
the Japanese for breakfast. It has become obvious

to us that there are many advantages to tours
but today's was a disappointment.

There was no guide. We rode in silence
looking at a map. The cliffs were interesting

but not spectacular. Stonehenge was torture
with snow underfoot. We stopped for lunch

in a recommended restaurant, which was fair
though listed as deluxe. The high point of the trip

was that the tour bus had trouble. All the men
got off and pushed, but the bus could not stop

to let them back on. They had to take flying leaps
at the moving door. This vacation was not

our best. But some days made up for
some of the others.

—lines from a travel journal, 1978