

# London: The City Experience

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## Day 1: Fly to England

Meet your group and travel on an overnight flight to London.

# Day 2: London

Arrive in London: Welcome to the cosmopolitan city of London, truly one of the world's great cities. Depending on your arrival time, you may have free time to settle in and explore on your own.

**Explore London:** Ready to see London on foot? Stretch your legs and set out through Trafalgar Square, Covent Garden, the Strand, and Leicester Square on a walking tour of the city.

Dinner: Tonight, enjoy a delicious meal with your group.

# Day 3: London

Sightseeing tour of London: From Big Ben to the Houses of Parliament, Great Britain's royal tradition and rich history greet you at every turn. Admire architectural marvels like St. Paul's Cathedral, and check out the five-way intersection at Piccadilly Circus and the urban greenery of Hyde Park. You may even get a chance to witness the ceremonial Changing of the Guard. Cap off your tour at the River Thames and snap photos of the Tower of London.

Sightseeing tour of Windsor Castle: At this former fortress, see priceless objects in the State Apartments, like paintings by Rubens and Holbein. Encounter the Gothic splendor of St. George's Chapel, final resting place of many monarchs. Discover Queen Mary's Dolls' House, where castle items are replicated in 1/12th scale—including a working lighting system and functional plumbing.

# Day 4: London

Free time in London: Take the day to explore the city at your own pace.

● Bath and Stonehenge: Take in two world-class archaeological sites on this full-day optional excursion. First, you'll visit Bath, built in the 1st century as a vacation retreat for the empire's elite. Then, continue on to unmistakable Stonehenge, whose exact origin and purpose remain shrouded in mystery more than 4,000 years after its construction.

# Day 5: London

Sightseeing tour of the Tower of London: Enter through thick defensive walls and take a look behind the Tower of London's imposing stony facade. Henry VIII banished two of his wives to this former prison, where Guy Fawkes also spent his final days. But the Tower's most famous occupants—the Crown Jewels—still reside here today. On your tour, behold this jaw-dropping collection of ornate rings, scepters, swords, and royal vestments.

**Tour of the British Museum:** London's British Museum houses one of the greatest collections of human cultural history in the world. As you peruse the world's first public museum, you'll see priceless reliefs from the Athenian Parthenon (the Elgin Marbles) and the Rosetta Stone, which enabled archaeologists to decipher Egyptian hieroglyphics. But the museum doesn't neglect Great Britain's own history. You'll also see the ancient bog-preserved body of the Lindow Man and other relics of the British Isles.

**Theater performance:** Celebrate London's vibrant drama scene with a visit to a local theater performance this evening.

### Day 6: London

Free day in London: London is yours to explore as you wish. Grab some friends and browse new and vintage wares at Notting Hill's Portobello Market or simply relax in one of the many green spaces the city has to offer. Or, get lost in the Tate Modern's stunning collections of contemporary art.

**Dinner:** Discuss the highlights of your day with fellow travelers over an Indian dinner this evening.

# Day 7: Depart for home

Transfer to the airport and check in for your flight home.

# **© 2-DAY PROGRAM EXTENSION**

# Day 7: London | Paris

Travel to Paris: Board a Eurostar train and travel to the City of Light.

**Latin Quarter:** Take a walking tour of Paris and discover the city's Latin Quarter, so named for the once prominent language spoken in the area.

**The Louvre:** The Louvre's massive halls are home to more than 35,000 objects; among them is Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece, the *Mona Lisa*.

Notre-Dame Cathedral: Admire Notre-Dame's sculptured facade, stained-glass rose windows, and seemingly weightless vaulted ceilings.

Dinner: Unwind over a delicious meal in the Latin Quarter.

# Day 8: Paris

Sightseeing tour of Paris: Ride down the famous Champs-Élysées, an elegant boulevard packed with high-fashion boutiques. Pass the Place de la Concorde and the Arc de Triomphe, and strike a pose in front of the Eiffel Tower. Your guide will share insights into Parisian culture and stories of the city's military history when you continue past Les Invalides.

Free time in Paris: Take the rest of the afternoon to enjoy Paris however you'd like, returning to sites you visited while sightseeing or choosing to explore new neighborhoods, restaurants, or cafés.

# Day 9: Depart for home

Transfer to the airport and check in for your return flight home.