

LONDON & THE COUNTRYSIDE

(Note: This is only a sample tour)

Day 1: Depart for London.

Day 2: Arrive in **London** and meet guide for your sightseeing tour. Visit **Westminster Abbey, see Buckingham Palace, Big Ben and 10 Downing Street.**

Day 3: Morning visit to **St. Paul's Cathedral.** Walk across the Millennium Bridge. Explore **Southbank**, an eclectic cultural heart of the city. It is home to attractions, theatres, restaurants, exhibitions, festivals and family fun activities. Stop at Borough Food Market for some lunch. The original Globe Theatre has been rebuilt - half-timbered and thatched and open air in the round - exactly as it was in Shakespeare's time. It hosts authentic old time performances of Shakespeare's plays with no amplification but it can be toured when there are no plays. Today you will visit the theatre and museum. **West End Theatre performance tonight.** Enjoy the lively district of Covent Garden famous for its fashionable boutiques, street performers, restaurants and the Royal Opera House, one of London's premier entertainment and leisure destination.



Day 4: Morning visit the **Tower of London.** The tower has a notorious history of murder, confinement and intrigue and has served as a castle in wartime, a king's residence in peace, and as a prison and execution site and houses the best display of crown jewels on earth. Make your way to **Camden Market.** Spend the afternoon at the market and the immense choices of goods for purchase. Other possible market choices are Petticoat Lane or Portobello Road. Spitalfields and Brick Lane are trendy spots to shop. Tonight after dinner travel back in time when a series of brutal murders brought terror and panic to the streets of London's East End. Your **Jack the Ripper Walking Tour** will follow Jack's trail on the dark, deserted crooked cobblestone alleyways of Whitechapel to follow Jack the Ripper's bloodstained trail of terror.



Day 5: Make your way to **Buckingham Palace** for the changing of the guard. Walk to Green Park to visit the Canadian War Memorial that pays tribute to nearly one million men and women who served in the UK during WWI and II and in particular to those who lost their lives. London's Museum Mile includes: The National Gallery, Tate Modern, Tate Britain, Victoria and Albert Museum, Natural History Museum, The Science Museum, Museum of London, The Royal Academy, and The National Portrait Gallery, and the British Museum. For the literary buffs, the Dickens Museum is a great choice. This afternoon visit a Museum of your choice. Shop til you drop along Oxford Street, Bond Street, Regent Street and Dover Street Market and Soho, a patchwork of streets, also famous as an entertainment. Tonight is your second theatre presentation.

Day 6: Morning **literary walking tour.** Learn about Charles Dickens connections to London as well as Shakespeare, Chaucer and Keats. Then on to London's Royal National Theatre, commonly called The National. The Theatre is a wonderful venue to see a show, attend a talk, listen to music, take a backstage tour, enjoy an outdoor performance in the summer, browse and shop in the bookstore, sit and relax in the foyer and have a cup of coffee, a snack, lunch or dinner. Today you will enjoy a guided backstage tour. Afterwards enjoy a short walk to the London Eye Ferris Wheel which was built for the millennium for an optional late afternoon ride. Tonight after dinner board your cruise near the London Eye. Sail past **Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament, The London Eye, Shakespeare's Globe, Tate Modern, St Paul's Cathedral, Tower Bridge and the Tower of London.**



Day 7: Morning guided visit to **Hampton Court Palace**. The palace is the 500 year old palace of Henry VIII. Actually it was the palace of his minister Cardinal Wolsey but Wolsey gave the envious king his palace. Following your visit, continue to Stonehenge, the most famous of the great prehistoric monuments of the British Isles. No one knows the exact combination of purposes for which Stonehenge was built, but it is thought that its purpose was broadly religious and perhaps for worshipping the sun gods. After your visit to **Stonehenge**, depart for Bath.

Day 8: Bath is a perfect 18th century city, perhaps the best preserved in all of Britain. The museums, elegant shops and terraces of magnificent town houses are a joy to experience. After your guided walking tour of Bath stop at a quaint English tea room for “cream tea”, a delicious snack consisting of tea or coffee alongside a freshly baked scone topped with clotted cream and strawberry preserves. Then visit the remains of these Roman Baths. Continue to Stratford.

Day 9: Stratford-Upon-Avon in Warwickshire is where Shakespeare was born in 1564. There is still an aura of Old Elizabethan England among Stratford’s timbered inns and 16th century houses with their oddly protruding upper story. Guided tour of the town and visit Anne Hathaway’s thatched roof cottage in Shottery, the early home of the playwright’s wife. Trace The Bard’s life story in Stratford. Later can visit more Shakespeare locations on own if desired. Tonight a play at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, the number one theatre on earth for Shakespearean productions.

Day 10: Drive through the **Cotswolds**. Wool was a huge industry during medieval times and the Cotswolds grew the best wool. The region prospered. But then the Industrial Revolution hit as well as the rise of cotton, and the wealthy Cotswolds collapsed. The region stood still in time and the Cotswolds are like a romantic time warp. Enjoy the day in the region visiting some of the delightful towns, Stow-on-the-Wold, Moreton-on-the-Marsh and Burton-on-the-Water.

Day 11: Unfortunately today you must say cheerio and depart for home.

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Return air London
 - Transfers
 - o Airport transfer
 - o 4 days coach tour to Bath, Stonehenge, Stratford and Cotswolds with stops according to itinerary
 - o Airport shuttle transfer upon departure
 - 9 night hotel accommodation with private facilities
 - Breakfast daily
 - 3 dinners
 - Entrances/activities
 - o Westminster Abbey
 - o St Paul’s Cathedral
 - o Tower of London
 - o Globe Theatre and exhibition
 - o Guided backstage tour of National Theatre
 - o Museum of choice
 - o Thames River Cruise
 - o 2 West End Theatre performance
 - o Hampton Court Palace
 - o Stonehenge
 - o Roman Baths
 - o Cream Tea
 - o Anne Hathaway Cottage
 - o Royal Shakespeare Performance
 - 5 day London Underground Pass
- Guided tours
 - o Orientation in London
 - o Jack the Ripper in London
 - o Literary tour in London
 - o Bath
 - o Stratford

