

LONDON MINI TOUR

ITINERARY NIGHTS: London (3)

HIGHLIGHTS: London City Tour • Westminster Abbey • British Museum • Tower of London

OPTIONS: Stratford and Warwick Castle • London Theatre Performance



LONDON! *The name alone conjures images of kings and queens, knights on chargers, lords and ladies, the River Thames and Tower Bridge. Welcome to Jolly Olde England! Your brief taste of London will surely whet your appetite for more. From William Shakespeare to Noel Coward, in London "the play's the thing"; be sure to take advantage of the optional theatre performance. Also take advantage of the world-class shopping at Marks & Spencer and at the venerable English institution, Harrod's.*

This city of great history, a former Roman settlement named Londinium that measured only one square mile, today measures over 620 square miles. This conglomeration of overgrown villages, each with its own distinct character defies simple description. Many centuries of Londoners, both native and adopted, have shaped the city to reflect a cosmopolitan mixture of voices and styles. Though your stay here will be short, enjoy your time in the city where history crashes head-on into the present.

DAY 1 Depart for England.

DAY 2 LONDON

Welcome to England!! You'll arrive in the capital city of London where your TSA Tours guide will meet you at the airport. En route to your hotel, enjoy

a **London City Tour**. See Piccadilly Circus, Tower Bridge, Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square, Fleet Street, the Houses of Parliament, St. Paul's and Big Ben. Continue to Westminster where you'll tour the formidable **Westminster Abbey**, site of numerous royal weddings and coronations. The first King crowned at Westminster was William I in 1066. Highlights include the Coronation Chair and Screen, the monument of the Unknown Warrior and Poet's Corner with its monuments to Chaucer, Milton, Longfellow, Thomas and other literary notables. Later, take a guided tour of the

magnificent **British Museum**, where the history of civilization awaits you. Its vast collection includes Egyptian, Assyrian, Greek, Roman, British, Oriental and medieval antiquities. Among the major works on display is the Rosetta Stone. Discovered in Egypt in 1799, this tablet allowed linguists to finally decipher ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics after thousands of years of mystery. Also on display are the Elgin Marbles, "stolen" from the Acropolis in Greece. Other highlights include the unparalleled collection of Egyptian mummies and the Sutton Hoo Treasures.

DAY 3 LONDON Today is free to explore with your advisors, or take advantage of an **optional excursion**: Travel through picturesque Cotswold villages to Stratford-upon-Avon, the birthplace of William Shakespeare. The Bard is believed to have been born here April 23rd, 1564. Enjoy a guided tour of the town, the birthplace and adjoining Shakespeare Museum, and visit Anne Hathaway's Cottage in the picture postcard village of Shottery. Continue your



adventures with a tour of Warwick Castle, the finest medieval castle in England. This 14th century castle was home to the Earls of Warwick, including Richard Neville, a crucial figure in the Wars of the Roses and known as "Kingmaker." Don't miss the wax exhibition by Mme. Tussaud, and be sure to see the medieval dungeon, the torture chamber and the ghost tower! Other attractions are the Peacock Garden, the Pageant Field, The Great Hall and an armory.

DAY 4 LONDON Cross an actual drawbridge to the **Tower of London**. Originally constructed by William I in 1067, the Tower fortress was intended to dissuade citizens from revolution. The Tower has also housed the Royal Mint and served as a prison. Today it houses a noteworthy collection of royal and historical artifacts. Hear the legend of the ravens and see the fabulous Crown Jewels, some of which date back to 12th century. Also on display is the Star of Africa in the Royal Sceptre. At 530 carats, the Star of Africa is the largest diamond in the world. Before leaving, be sure to have your picture taken with a beekeeper in his Tudor uniform. **Option:** In London "the play's the thing." Make your last evening in Europe's greatest theatre city special by attending a performance at one of the West End's historic theatres.

DAY 5 DEPART Say "Ta Ta" to London. Leave England for home, and return with many exciting memories to share with family and friends.

For more information, please contact: