

# LONDON THEATRE

**ITINERARY NIGHTS:** London Area (7)

**HIGHLIGHTS:** London City Tour • Windsor Castle • Covent Garden • Two London West End Theatre Performances • Globe Theatre Museum • Theatre Workshop • British Museum • National Theatre Tour • Barbican Centre • Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum • Royal Shakespeare Company Performance

**OPTIONS:** Stratford-upon-Avon with matinee play • Stonehenge and Bath Tour



**DAY 1** Depart for England.

**DAY 2 LONDON** Welcome to England!! Your TSA Tours guide will take you on a **London City Tour** to see Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, Buckingham Palace and Piccadilly Circus. Also visit the renowned 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, Hardy, Thomas, and other literary notables.

**DAY 3 LONDON** Tour **Windsor Castle** with its beautiful architecture. This afternoon visit Covent Garden. Designed by Inigo Jones and modeled after the piazzas of Italy, **Covent Garden** today is a wonderful, lively spot. Enjoy the fabulous street performers, such as jugglers and pantomimes. See the Bow Street Magistrates Court, home of the Bow Street Runners. In London, the play's the thing! This evening, enjoy a West End **theatre performance**.

**DAY 4 LONDON** Discover the largest city in Europe with

your advisor today. This evening you'll attend another smashing **theatre performance**.

## **DAY 5 LONDON**

The original Globe Theatre (1599) enjoyed its heyday during Shakespeare's time, but burned

down when a cannon heralding the arrival of Henry VIII ignited the thatched roof. Today you can visit the **Globe Museum** which houses a unique collection of material, including scale models, on the evolution of the Bankside Elizabethan theatre. Upstairs is a replica of the stage and tiring house of the theatre, designed in 1616 by Inigo Jones. Shakespeare's Globe Exhibition tells the story of William Shakespeare's workplace and of the extensive research which has gone into the design and authentic reconstruction of this 'Wooden O'. Then take a guided tour of the magnificent **British Museum** where the history of civilization awaits you. 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 Lewis Chessmen, the new galleries of Egyptian funerary archaeology and an exhibit dedicated to the Beatles.

## **DAY 6 LONDON**

Explore London with your

advisor today. Perhaps you'd like to visit magnificent St. Paul's Cathedral, or venture to the Tower of London to see the Crown Jewels. You may wish to take advantage of an **optional excursion**: Drive through picturesque Cotswold villages to Stratford-upon-Avon, famous as the birthplace of William Shakespeare. The Bard is believed to have been born here April 23, 1564. His birthplace and the adjoining Shakespeare Center attract hundreds of thousands of visitors every year. Also attend the matinee play included with this option.

**DAY 7 LONDON** Take a backstage tour of the **Royal National Theatre** and the **Barbican** (Royal Shakespeare Company). One of the things that Britain is known for throughout the world is the quality of its drama and its actors, and the Royal National Theatre is the nation's flagship theatre. The National presents an enormous variety of plays - from classic to brand new - from the whole of world drama; presents them to the very highest standards; and gives audiences a choice of productions at any one time. The Barbican Centre, Europe's premier arts center, was built 15 years ago. It has two theatres,



'Barbican Theatre' with seating capacity at 1,162, and a small theatre called 'The Pit', seating capacity 185. The Barbican stages Shakespeare, new writing and classical productions. Visit **Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum**, famous for the uncanny reality of its wax figures. Madame Tussaud came to England from Paris in 1802. During the French Revolution, she made the death masks of such notables as Marat and Robespierre. Tonight, attend a **Royal Shakespeare Company Performance**.

**DAY 8 LONDON** A free day for explorations. **Optional:** Journey to the mystical past with a visit to Stonehenge. While contemplating the sculptural majesty of Stonehenge, your mind is crowded with questions. Who built this 5,000-year-old Neolithic monument, and why? How did they bring such massive stones to this site? Travel on to Bath, a town famous since Roman times for its mineral baths and hot springs. It also has elegant Georgian architecture, history, beautiful scenery and grand terraces of mellow stone houses. You'll tour the Roman Baths and the ancient Pump House.

**DAY 9 DEPART** Bid a reluctant farewell to historic Britain and her many majestic theatres.

*For more information, please contact:*