



Itinerary

Jacksonville State University Marching Southerners

Your Hotel:

Hilton London Metropole
225 Edgware Road, London W2 1JU
Telephone: 020 7402 4141

Nearest Tube:

Edgware Road
Lines from this station: District, Circle, Bakerloo, Hammersmith & City
Nearest Chemist:
Boots, 175 Edgware Road, W2 2HR
Monday to Saturday, 9.00am to 7.00pm
Telephone: 020 7706 4257

Nearest Hospital:

St. Mary's Hospital, Praed Street, London W2 1NY
Telephone: 020 7886 6666

Nearest Police Station:

1-9 Seymore Street, W1H 7BA
24 hours a day - 7 days a week
Telephone: 020 7486 1212

In case of an emergency **Dial 999**, this will give you access to an operator who will then put you through to the Police, Ambulance Service or the Fire Service.

Thursday 29 December

On your arrival in London you will be taken by luxury motor coach to your hotel. There may be a short delay before you receive your room and so we will schedule lunch and a walk of the local area.

Your resource assistant will be on hand to pass out your Information and itinerary book.

You will also receive your own Oyster Card, which is pre-loaded with eleven single journeys on London's Underground Network. For information on how to use your card, and for a map of the Underground, please refer to the 'Transport' section in your itinerary book.

You will also receive your own personal MP3 player, loaded with five unique self guided walking tours of London. Details may be found in the 'Audibly Good Guides' section in your itinerary book.

This afternoon there may be time for you to take the first of these tours, which follows the spectacular processional route of the New Year's Day Parade through the heart of London. It features The Ritz Hotel, Piccadilly, Piccadilly Circus, Trafalgar Square, Whitehall and Parliament Square. Learn about the rich history of the area and the buildings along the route, with the added flavour of the pomp and ceremony of the Parade.

This afternoon is unstructured.

6.00pm Join your resource assistant in the Palace Suite on level -3 in the East Wing for an orientation meeting, where you will learn all about your week in London.

7.00pm Dinner will be served in the Palace Suite.

8.00pm Collect your instruments for a rehearsal in the Windsor Suite in the East Wing.

The rest of the evening is free for you to acclimatise to European time.

Friday 30 December

A substantial buffet breakfast will be served each morning in the Palace Suite on level -3 in the East Wing, at the time indicated in your daily itinerary.

From 7.00am Breakfast is served.

8.15am. Load your instruments on to the waiting coaches.

8.30am This morning we will whisk you away on a spectacular tour of London's most famous landmarks, including the Palace of Westminster, home of the two Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral and the Tower of London.

Soak up the atmosphere as your guide introduces you to over 1,000 years of history. This is also your opportunity to look out for the places you would like to visit during your unstructured time.

There will be a couple of stops for photographs.

12.00 Midday. Your tour will end in Trafalgar Square. Lunch at leisure in the Leicester Square area.

12.45pm Return to your coaches and prepare for your performance.

Trafalgar Square is one of London's great landmarks. It is named after the most famous sea battle in British history when in 1805 twenty-seven British ships of the line, led by Admiral Lord Nelson aboard HMS Victory, defeated thirty-three French and Spanish ships of the line under French Admiral Pierre Villeneuve off the south-west coast of Spain, at Cape Trafalgar. The Franco-Spanish fleet lost twenty-two ships, without a single British vessel being lost. Nelson was shot during the engagement and died only after the battle was won. He now looks down on you from his column that is 185 feet above your head!

1:00pm Your performance begins.

1.20pm Performance ends. Re-join your coaches and return to your hotel.

This afternoon is unstructured and the perfect time to discover London for yourself.

One of the best ways of getting to know the City first hand is to undertake one of the specially commissioned and unique self guided walking tours of London, details of which can be found in the section 'Audibly Good Guides' in your itinerary book.

Walk number two, 'Princes, Palaces and Power', will take you from Big Ben to Buckingham Palace, from Prince William to Parliament, a powerful mixture of Majesty and Might. Or walk number three 'Art-rageous London!' will take you through Theatreland, China Town, Musicals and Murder, London has them all.

By far the best way of travelling around is by the Underground (Tube). The Oyster Card is the preferred travel pass for the many millions of Londoners who use the network every day. Your own personal card is pre-loaded with eleven one way journeys. Information about how you use it may be found in the 'transport' section in your itinerary book and there is an easy to use map of the Underground on the inside back cover.

London is also famous for its red busses. The extensive network is very convenient for shorter journeys, and you may prefer an overland view of the City as you travel around. Your Oyster Card is valid for all bus journeys and we provide you with an excellent map of the central London bus routes in your itinerary book.

There are a host of things to see, and not enough time to see them all! To assist you in making the most of your precious time, we have chosen the most popular sights in the 'attractions' section of your itinerary book. We provide information about each place of interest, along with a map reference and the nearest tube station, and an idea of what your visit will cost, in several instances, nothing!

Use the excellent London map provided at the back of this book to work out the best route.

Don't miss the British Museum and the National Gallery, they're free! Although you have to pay, a visit inside St. Paul's Cathedral or Westminster Abbey are a must.

Dinner at leisure, using the vouchers provided.

This evening you may choose where you would like to dine using the vouchers provided. These are accepted in many restaurants in London. Check the 'eating out' section in your itinerary book for more information.

Evening at leisure.

Saturday 31 December

From 7.00am Breakfast is served.

8.30am Depart by luxury coach with your Blue Badge Guide to Windsor.

9.15am The historic country town of Windsor is renowned for its cobbled lanes and narrow passages. At the heart of the town is the castle which has, for over 900 years, been residence and fortress for the British monarch. Entrance to the castle includes a visit inside the Royal Apartments. You will have some free time to discover the town for yourself.

12.00pm Time to leave Windsor for London.

1.00pm Your tour ends at The Tower of London, where you may find a light lunch at one of a number of eateries in the area.

1.45pm Join your Blue Badge Guide for a tour of The Tower.

The ancient stones reverberate with dark secrets, priceless jewels glint in fortified vaults and ravens strut the grounds. The Tower of London, founded by William the Conqueror in 1066-7, holds some of the most remarkable stories from across the centuries. Despite a grim reputation as a place of torture and death, this powerful and enduring fortress has been enjoyed as a royal palace, served as an armoury and for a number of years even housed a zoo!

Gaze up at the massive White Tower, tiptoe through a kings' medieval bedchamber and marvel at the priceless Crown Jewels. The famous Yeoman Warders have bloody tales to tell; stand where heads rolled and prisoners wept.

The Tower held many famous prisoners, from the highest levels of society; some in astonishing comfort and others less so... Visit the places of their confinement and read the graffiti left by prisoners from over 500 years ago.

4.00pm When your tour is over, walk to Tower Hill Underground Station on the Circle and District Lines, and, using your Oyster Card, travel back in to the Hilton Metropole.

5.00pm Begin a rehearsal in the Kings Suite in the west Wing.

6.30pm Rehearsal ends.

7.00pm Dinner will be served in the Palace Suite in your hotel.

Evening at leisure.

Sunday 01 January 2012

From 6.30am Breakfast is served.

8.00am Load all of your instruments on to the waiting coaches.

8.20am Depart by motor coach for Millbank, where your resource person will lead you to the location of your official group photograph adjacent the Palace of Westminster.

Return to your coach and continue to the assembly area in Berkeley Square. Please leave instrument boxes on the coach. The team of stewards will have clearly marked where you need to line up.

Depending on your position in the Parade, you will be waiting for a maximum of two hours.

Toilet and first aid facilities are available.

There are limited catering outlets in the square, so to avoid queues you are advised to bring your own lunch.

Warm up's will be collected before the Parade starts and delivered back to your hotel.

12.00 Midday The 26th London's New Year's Day Parade begins from outside the world famous Ritz Hotel in Piccadilly.

At exactly midday the parade starts and you will march two miles down the most spectacular route in the world, before an expected live audience of two thirds of a million people with many more watching the satellite broadcast.

As you reach the end of Whitehall, you will line up for the waiting cameras that will be beaming your performance around the World. Tell your friends at home to look out for you and don't forget to tell them about the time difference!

Enjoy this unique experience!

At Parliament Square your dedicated coaches will be on hand to take you back to your hotel.

Dinner at leisure, using the vouchers provided.

Evening at leisure.

Monday 02 January

From 6.30am Breakfast is served.

8.00am Today you will experience the delights of the West Country of England, with a visit to Stonehenge & Bath.

10.00am Dwarfed by its lonely isolation on the wide sweep of Salisbury plain, Stonehenge or 'Hanging Stones' is a magical, mystical and awe inspiring place.

The henge dates back to circa 2800 BC and, although we are fairly certain that it was a religious site, we have little idea about why it was built.

11.00am Continue to Bath, where lunch will be taken.

12.00pm The City of Bath was founded by the Romans in around AD54 and is where they built a system of baths using the natural hot springs. These have been excavated and form part of your tour of the museum & pump rooms. The City was extensively re-built in the dignified Palladian style of the 18th Century with beautiful crescents & squares.

4.00pm Time to leave Bath for London.

6.00pm Arrive back at your hotel.

7.00pm Dinner will be served in the Palace Suite in your hotel.

Evening at leisure.

Tuesday 03 January

From 7.00am Breakfast is served.

Today is unstructured and an ideal opportunity to visit some more of London's most popular attractions and to do some shopping.

This will be the last opportunity you have to use your MP3 player and take the final two of the specially commissioned self guided walking tours of London. The fourth tour is UK - USA - 250, a tour celebrating 250 years of a very special relationship. The fifth tour is the Guide and Seek Treasure Trail. Fascinating nuggets of history, mystery, movies and music, hidden throughout London waiting to be discovered on our interactive Treasure Trail.

In the 'shopping' section we have included all of the most popular places to hang out, along with some of the famous department stores and shopping malls.

Remember you will need to change your money for those important purchases! Advice on exchange rates and where best to change your money can be found in the 'money' section.

The most famous department stores are Harrods (Knightsbridge), Liberty's (Regent Street) and Selfridges (Oxford Street), although there are many more wonderful shops to choose from in Bond Street and Covent Garden.

The most popular places to visit are Piccadilly Circus, Leicester Square, Covent Garden, the Hard Rock Café (Hyde Park Corner), the Trocadero (Piccadilly Circus) and Planet Hollywood (Haymarket).

Dinner at leisure, using the vouchers provided.

Evening at leisure.

Wednesday 04 January

Please ensure that you bring your own luggage down to reception 30 minutes prior to boarding your coach to the airport.

A 'Grab and Go' breakfast will be served in the lobby of your hotel.

6.00am Depart for Heathrow airport to check in for flight DL004 departing at 9.40am.

6.15am Depart for Heathrow airport to check in for flight AA087 departing at 10.15am.

From 6.30am Breakfast is served.

8.00am Depart for Heathrow airport to check in for flight UA949 departing at 12.05pm.

8.30am Depart for Heathrow airport to check in for flight DL009 departing at 12.25pm.

9.15am Depart for Heathrow airport to check in for flight AA047 departing at 1.15pm.

10.00am Depart for Heathrow airport to check in for flight BA227 departing at 1.55pm.

Lunch and afternoon tea will be served on-board your flight.

We wish you a safe journey home and hope very much that we will see you again in our wonderful Capital City!