



Day 1: Fly to Great Britain

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

Day 2: London

Arrive in London: Welcome to the cosmopolitan city of London. This city has been a theater hub for hundreds of years, from royal court performances to Shakespeare's Globe to the modern bright lights of the West End.

Explore London: Stretch your legs as you set out on a walking tour of the city with your Tour Director. Time permitting, you'll explore Trafalgar Square, Covent Garden, the Strand, and Leicester Square.

Dinner: Enjoy an authentic fish and chips dinner 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 regal splendor of Buckingham Palace. 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.

Interactive tour of the Victoria and Albert Museum: The design of any theatrical production is key to the audience experience. During this interactive tour, you'll discover how craftspeople of the theater, opera, and ballet gain creative inspiration for theatrical spaces, costumes, and props. As you grow your understanding of how these artists transform their ideas into reality, you'll use the V&A's unrivaled collection of decorative arts to explore how influences from advertising, to furniture and painting are brought to life for today's stage. Taking specific examples from the V&A's Theatre and Performance Galleries, you'll trace these artistic origins through the museum, hunting down period fashions, architectural styles, and popular culture references that have shaped this spectacularly creative industry.

Day 4: London

Free time in London: The morning is yours to explore the city at your own pace. You may want to nibble on scones at a local cafe, take a bicycle ride through the city, or enjoy the peace and quiet of London's many parks and green spaces.

Guided tour of the Globe Theatre: Built just 200 yards from its original site, London's new Globe Theatre transports visitors back to Elizabethan England. Those were the days when rowdy groundlings hurled rotten food at the actors to express their displeasure with a performance, and villains like *Othello's* Iago were mercilessly heckled by the enthusiastic crowd.

Evening theater performance: This evening, enjoy a live theater performance at the Globe Theatre (May-October) or in the West End (November-April).

Day 5: London

Participate in a theater workshop: Try out your acting skills in a lively workshop in a local theater.

Free time in London: Explore the city at your own pace. You may want to visit a few of London's many free museums, take a ride on the London Eye, or choose to head out on a history of theater walk.

Windsor Castle: Sometimes you just need 13 acres of castles, towers, and gardens to really unwind—or at least you do if you're a British royal. Wander onto this tremendous retreat favored by the Royal Family for the afternoon, and explore what is essentially a small town. Behind the walls of its exquisite architecture you'll find treasures that date back to its origins in 1070—from original sketches by Da Vinci to the royal remains of monarchs past.

Day 6: London | Stratford-upon-Avon

Travel to Stratford-upon-Avon: Arrive in this market town, the birthplace of William Shakespeare.

Sightseeing tour of Stratford-upon-Avon: Tour the half-timbered house where Shakespeare was born. Continue to Anne Hathaway's Cottage, a picturesque farmhouse where the Bard's wife spent her childhood. The cottage grounds include a classic English garden that boasts a variety of colorful flowers.

Dinner: Enjoy dinner with your group.

Evening theater performance: Cap off your visit to Stratford-upon-Avon with a theater performance.

Day 7: Stratford-upon-Avon | Oxford | London

Travel to Oxford: Travel to the world-renowned city, home of the oldest university in the English-speaking world.

Guided theater tour of Oxford: Begin your theater tour outside the Oxford Playhouse, whose program includes the best of British and international performance. It's also where Dame Maggie Smith honed her acting skills from 1951 to 1953, making her professional stage debut in 1952 in an Oxford University Dramatics Society production of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. Pass the Martyrs' Memorial, a stone monument commemorating the Anglican bishops who were burned at the stake for their religious beliefs and teachings during the 16th century. Continue on to explore Broad Street, the Sheldonian Theatre, and the Bodleian Library as you learn about Oxford's scope of literary history—which includes C.S. Lewis's creative origins and the inspiration behind Lewis Carroll's classic, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

Travel to London: Return to England's capital city.

Day 8: London

Backstage tour of the National Theatre: Learn what it takes to put on a successful theatrical performance through a backstage tour of the National Theatre. Your guide will show you three auditoriums, scenic workshops, and backstage areas. Watch crew members design, paint, and build their sets. If you're lucky, you may even see some of the cast rehearsing for their next performance.

Free time in London: Take the afternoon to continue exploring the city.

Dinner: Enjoy a traditional Indian meal with your group. Though the influence of Indian cuisine in England hails as far back as British rule in India between 1858 and 1947, Indian dishes like curry and tikka masala were officially brought to the UK in 1926 and are still a mainstay of English cuisine.

Evening theater performance: Celebrate London's vibrant drama scene by attending a theater performance.

Day 9: Depart for home

Arrive at the airport and check in for your flight home.