



passports

educational group travel

Yuletide in London

International Teacher Convention

departing on December 26, 2010

5 days

Winter in England, as elsewhere, heralds the season of Christmas festivities. Towns and cities countrywide are brightly decorated for the occasion. Shopping is always a delight at this time of year; Christmas goods and fabulous window displays in the large department stores will delight all ages.

Businessmen in bowler hats hustle along the streets of "the City," on their way home to their families. Bob Cratchet and Tiny Tim come to mind.

Enjoy a hearty pub lunch in front of a real fire. This is England!

Basic Inclusions

Accommodations in centrally-located four-star hotels •
Rooming on a double basis

Overnights

London 3

Meals

All breakfasts • One dinner

Transit Summary

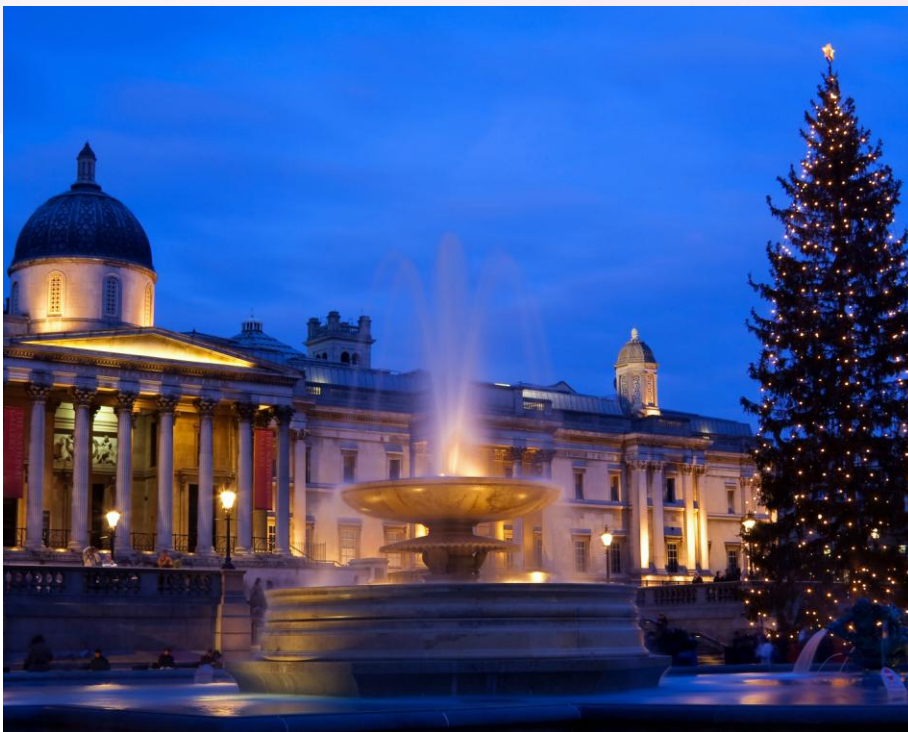
Round-trip transportation on scheduled airline • Airport arrival transfer on Days 1-2 • Airport departure transfer on Day 5

Optional Extensions

London (\$449) 4 days

Paris (\$699) 4 days

Amsterdam (\$799) 4 days



Tour Highlights

Main Tour

Yuletide in London

Walking tours with **passports** couriers

Welcome reception

Half-day city sightseeing in London

Services of a specially-trained half-day local guide in London

Farewell dinner

Optional Extension: London (\$449)

Optional Extension: Paris (\$699)

Chunnel Train to Paris

Chunnel crossing on the Eurostar train
London-Paris

Optional Extension: Amsterdam (\$799)

Flight to Amsterdam

Flight London-Amsterdam. (Please note that internal European flights have different luggage restrictions than international flights. **Luggage limitations are 20kg or 44 lbs**, and subject to change without notice)

Yuletide in London

DAYS 1-2: ARRIVAL, YULETIDE IN LONDON, WELCOME RECEPTION

You head east, into a short night, and suddenly it's morning, and you're in England! Londontown: the hub and focus for theatre-goers worldwide.

Meet your smiling **passports** assistant during the early hours of a new day in London. See the red, double-decker buses, and the square-looking black taxicabs. Listen to a very proper use of the English Language. Free time to unwind and unpack.

This afternoon, take part in one of the many walking tours which will be available to you.

Welcome Reception • Tonight, enjoy a welcome reception to meet **passports** staff and fellow organizers. Enjoy refreshments and canapés.

Overnight: London

DAY 3: LONDON CITY SIGHTSEEING, YULETIDE IN LONDON

Half-day city sightseeing • Enjoy a tour of the sights and sounds of the British capital. See Westminster Abbey, the Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, Trafalgar Square, St. Paul's Cathedral, the multi-cultural area of Soho, Oxford Street, home to the major shopping district of London, #10 Downing Street, location of the home and business office of the Prime Minister, and the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace, if scheduled. **Local Guide** • A half-day local guide, well-educated and specially-trained on the history and culture of London, will accompany your group.

Yuletide in London • This afternoon, venture out on your own or opt to participate on an optional excursion.

Don't miss the post-Christmas bargains on Oxford Street, one of the great shopping meccas of Europe. And don't miss *Harrod's*, the department store!

Explore the haunts of your favorite authors as you enjoy dinner on your own tonight. How about Dr. Johnson's Fleet Street pub, *Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese*?

Meals included: Breakfast

Overnight: London

DAY 4: YULETIDE IN LONDON, OPTIONAL EXCURSION TO PARIS

Explore on your own or opt to participate in special excursions which will be offered.

Try out the *tube* or a red double-decker bus; take the Thames steamer to Greenwich; visit the National Gallery, or Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum.

Excursion to Paris (\$279) Optional • Board the high-speed Eurostar train in London for an exciting ride under the English Channel, through the "Chunnel." Arrive in downtown Paris less than three hours later!

Set out on a coach tour of the city. On the Right Bank of the River Seine, see Napoléon's *Arc de Triomphe*, the *Champs-Elysées*, the *Place de la Concorde*, and the exuberant *Opéra Garnier*. On the Left Bank, discover the Eiffel Tower, the Invalides, the Latin Quarter and *Saint-Germain-des-Prés*.

A local guide, well-educated and

specially-trained on the history and culture of Paris, will accompany your group.

Take a stroll along the glamorous *Avenue des Champs-Elysées*, which stretches for more than a mile from the *Place de la Concorde*, where Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette encountered Dr. Guillotin's invention and their fate. The obelisk at the center of the square was presented by Egypt to France in 1831 and dates back to the 13th century BC, a relic of Ramses II. In the vicinity stands the *Palais de l'Elysée*, built in 1718, which now serves as the residence of the President of the Republic. At the other end of the avenue, the *Arc de Triomphe* looms over the city's craziest rotary. (You may want to climb up to the monument's platform for a great overview of the area!)

Make your way to Napoléon's *Arc de Triomphe*, which looms over the city's craziest rotary. View its glorious sculptures and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. You may want to ascend to the top for a superb panorama of the city and a visit of the museum housed inside the monument.



DAYS 1-2: Holiday shopping in London

Step up the pace as you board the high-speed Eurostar train for an exciting ride under the English Channel through the "Chunnel." Less than three hours later, you're in London.

Farewell Dinner • Tonight, you'll be treated to a special farewell dinner.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Farewell Dinner
Overnight: London*

DAY 5: DEPARTURE

Depart London • Transfer to the airport. During the flight home, don't forget to write down your favorite sights to revisit the *next* time you come to "Merrie Olde England!"

Arrive home, a little tired, but with exciting tales to tell at tomorrow's New Year's Eve celebration.

Meals included: Breakfast

Optional Extension: London (\$449)

DAY 5: LONDON

Enjoy some free time in London today.

You may want to explore Covent Garden, the stomping ground of Eliza Dolittle and Professor Higgins. Watch the street performers, browse through stores or check out the vendors for souvenirs.

There is nothing more quintessentially English than high tea at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. You may want to experience it in the restrained, sophisticated surroundings of hotels like the *Ritz*, *Brown's* or *Maids of Honor*, a tea room reputedly enjoyed by Henry VIII! The British genius for cakes and their fondness for tea-drinking come together during "high tea," which, in addition to the national beverage, traditionally consists of wafer-thin cucumber sandwiches or scones spread thickly with fresh cream and strawberry jam.

*Meals included: Breakfast
Overnight: London*

DAY 6: LONDON

Enjoy some free time in London today.

Plan a visit to the National Gallery, which deserves its reputation as one of the world's leading art museums. Over 2,200 masterpieces are on permanent display here. Enjoy its particularly rich collection of Dutch and Italian Renaissance

paintings, as well as superb works from 17th-century Spain.

Explore Harrods at leisure. With its 330 departments spread on seven floors, this glamorous department store is the largest in the United Kingdom and one of the largest in the world. You will see that it lives up to its motto, "All Things for All People, Everywhere," at least in the variety of products and services it offers, all on the upper end of the spectrum. Don't miss the opulent Egyptian Hall, creation of the current owner, the Egyptian businessman Mohamed al-Fayed, and check out the Food Halls, where patrons can enjoy anything from High Tea to *tapas*.

*Meals included: Breakfast
Overnight: London*

DAY 7: LONDON

Enjoy some free time in London today.

You may want to check out the London Eye, the world's highest Ferris wheel at 450 feet. It is magnificently situated across from the Houses of Parliament on the River Thames. Revolving slowly above the London skyline, this "Millennium Wheel" uses the latest in technology to take visitors on a unique ride over England's capital city.

You may want to head to the gallery known as the Tate Britain, which houses an extensive selection of British paintings from the 16th through the 19th centuries, including works by William Blake, John Constable and Thomas Gainsborough. Don't miss the Turner Bequest, a treasure of landscapes left to the nation on the condition that they would be presented as a unit.

Consider a visit to the Tate Modern, a gallery of contemporary art housed in a former power station. It holds an extensive collection of modern paintings and sculptures from 1900 to the present, including works by Picasso and Warhol.

*Meals included: Breakfast
Overnight: London*

DAY 8: DEPARTURE

Depart London • With images of London still vivid in your mind, race the sun westward aboard your jet airplane. Write down what you remember best. You'll be home before you know it, eager to share your discoveries with family and friends.

Meals included: Breakfast

Optional Extension: Paris (\$699)

DAY 5: CHUNNEL TRAIN TO PARIS

Board the high-speed Eurostar train in London for an exciting ride under the English Channel, through the "Chunnel." Arrive in downtown Paris less than three hours later!

Settle into your centrally-located hotel, then set out to explore one of the world's most beautiful capital cities.

You may want to head to Montmartre, Paris' highest hill and its most celebrated bohemian district. Artists still flock to the charming *Place du Terre*, as they did when Toulouse-Lautrec painted the French Cancan dancers at the famous *Moulin Rouge* cabaret. Enjoy panoramic views of the city as you make your way to the *Sacré-Coeur*, the white-domed basilica that anchors the Parisian skyline.

*Meals included: Breakfast
Overnight: Paris*

DAY 6: PARIS

Enjoy some free time in Paris today.

Set out to explore the city. On the Right Bank of the River Seine, see Napoléon's *Arc de Triomphe*, the *Champs-Élysées*, the *Place de la Concorde*, and the exuberant *Opéra Garnier*. On the Left Bank, discover the Eiffel Tower, the Invalides, the Latin Quarter and *Saint-Germain-des-Prés*.

Consider a visit to the Louvre Museum to explore its restored galleries and their ancient treasures as well as the modernistic underground galleria beneath I. M. Pei's glass pyramid. You will see Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* and the *Vénus de Milo*, among countless other masterpieces.

You may want to go to the Beaubourg district and the startling building known as the *Centre National d'Art et de Culture Georges Pompidou* (Pompidou Center). It houses a museum of modern art that you may opt to visit. Or, simply take a ride on the exterior escalator, through the plastic tube, to the top-floor observation platform. Then, linger in the adjacent plaza, where street artists rival the museum's exhibits.

*Meals included: Breakfast
Overnight: Paris*

DAY 7: PARIS

Enjoy some free time in Paris today.

Make your way to Napoléon's *Arc de Triomphe*, which looms over the city's craziest rotary. View its glorious sculptures and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. You may want to ascend to the top for a superb panorama of the city and a visit of the museum housed inside the monument.

Take a stroll along the glamorous *Avenue des Champs-Élysées*, which stretches for more than a mile from the *Place de la Concorde*, where Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette encountered Dr. Guillotin's invention and their fate. The obelisk at the center of the square was presented by Egypt to France in 1831 and dates back to the 13th century BC, a relic of Ramses II. In the vicinity stands the *Palais de l'Élysée*, built in 1718, which now serves as the residence of the President of the Republic. At the other end of the avenue, the *Arc de Triomphe* looms over the city's craziest rotary. (You may want to climb up to the monument's platform for a great overview of the area!)

Why not head to the *Ile de la Cité*, the very heart of the ancient city, which the Romans called *Lutetia*? There, you may want to visit *Notre-Dame*. This cathedral has presided over centuries of glorious and somber French history, from its construction in the Middle Ages to the French Revolution and the coronation of Napoléon in 1804 (the 35-year-old upstart crowned himself emperor!). Admire the bas-reliefs, statuary, gargoyles and remarkable rose windows.

Meals included: Breakfast
Overnight: Paris

DAY 8: DEPARTURE

Depart Paris • Most good things must come to an end. Your suitcase full of memorabilia and of photos ready to be processed, you'll arrive home later today, eager to share your discoveries with family and friends.

Meals included: Breakfast

Optional Extension: Amsterdam (\$799)

DAY 5: FLIGHT TO AMSTERDAM

A short flight takes you from England to Amsterdam, the nominal capital of the Netherlands.

Free time in Amsterdam • Enjoy some free time in Amsterdam today.

Set out to explore Amsterdam, old and new. See 17th- and 18th-century patrician houses and historic landmarks, including the *Oudekerk* (Old Church), *Nieuwekerk* (New Church) and the *Westerkerk* (West Church), where Rembrandt is buried.

Meals included: Breakfast
Overnight: Amsterdam

DAY 6: AMSTERDAM

Enjoy some free time in Amsterdam today.

You may want to visit the house, restored to its original state, which Rembrandt purchased at the time he painted *The Night Watch*. He lived and worked in this house from 1639 to 1658.

Art lovers should not fail to visit the turreted *Rijksmuseum* and its unrivaled exhibits of Dutch masters.

Meals included: Breakfast
Overnight: Amsterdam

DAY 7: AMSTERDAM

Enjoy some free time in Amsterdam today.

Stroll through the area known as the *Jordaan*, full of narrow streets, small canals, quaint shops and beautiful 17th-century houses with *hofjes* (courtyards with gardens).

Check out the shops along *Nieuwendijk* or the Dam Square department stores.

Meals included: Breakfast
Overnight: Amsterdam

DAY 8: DEPARTURE

Depart Amsterdam • *Tot ziens!*

Villages and bicycles, tulips and wooden shoes all blur together as you make your way to Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport. The U.S. seems a world away. Yet you'll be there later today, eager to share your discoveries with family and friends.

Meals included: Breakfast