



Sample Itinerary For a Four Day History Study Tour to London.

Dates: To Be Decided.



The itinerary is designed to balance visits of the greatest interest with recreative activities. It aims to make the maximum use of time without exhausting participants. The itinerary we have proposed is flexible and is only finalised after discussion with the Party Leader(s). Flexibility is also built into the holiday itself as changes can be made at very short notice according to weather conditions etc. The visit will be guided throughout. All excursions are well-prepared and are backed by notes and a commentary. The director is able to run the holiday according to Party Leader wishes. In this way Party Leaders will be free to concentrate on the care of their pupils rather than the organisation of the tour. The visit is underpinned by excellent, catering, transport and security.

ACCOMMODATION

The Britannia International Hotel* Marsh Wall, London E14 9SJ.**

Tel. 0207 77120100. Fax. 0207 7712 0102

The Britannia International Hotel is sited on the water's edge in the heart of London's Docklands. Within easy reach of the City area of London as well as the West End, our hotel is an ideal base for our groups visiting the London region. All rooms have televisions, reading desks, bedside lamps & ensuite bathroom facilities. Most of the 442 well-appointed rooms have panoramic views of either the Millenium Dome, Canary Wharf, Greenwich or the River Thames & its London skyline.

We have found the Britannia International Hotel to offer superior accommodation for our school groups visiting the capital, with rapid transfer times between our visits & security provided by a 24hr. concierge & the usual double locking doors in each room. The staff are extremely welcoming, friendly & helpful & we are sure that the time spent at the hotel will be a highlight of the Study Visit.

DAY ONE

(Note: We do ask parents to provide a packed lunch for the first day).

07.00 Coaches arrive at School.

07.30 Depart School. Onward transfer to Duxford.

11.30 **E.T.A. Duxford Aviation Museum.**

Duxford retains its wartime atmosphere and, as many of the historic aeroplanes still fly, we may even see one in the air during our visit. We will see Spitfires, Concorde, and Gulf War jets among the 150 aircraft on show. Tanks and artillery are displayed in the Land Warfare Hall in dramatic battlefield scenes that participants can walk through.

Included in the entrance cost is the American Air Museum, with famous historic aircraft suspended from the ceiling as if in flight.

Students will be able to explore the Duxford Aviation Museum and we will meet at a pre-arranged time in the cafeteria area.

13.30 Lunch.

14.00 Onward transfer to London.

16.45 **Sightseeing Cruise on The River Thames.**

After viewing London from the air, we will then view London from the river during an hour long cruise along the Thames that passes the Houses of Parliament, Battersea Bridge, The MI5 Building, The Tower of London, The Headquarters of the London Assembly & HMS Belfast. The cruise will depart & return from/to underneath the London Eye & is a great way to become familiarised with some of the city's greatest landmarks.

18.00 **The British Airways London Eye.**

This huge wheel was built for the Millennium Celebrations & it offers a spectacular view over the capital. The 'flight' takes 45 minutes after the short initial queue to board the pods.

19.30 **Dinner at The Deep Pan Pizza Company, Regent Street, London.**

21.00 Transfer to Hotel to Hotel Britannia.

21.30 E.T.A. Hotel Britannia. Allocate keys & settle into rooms.

DAY TWO

08.30 Breakfast.

09.30 Coach transfer to The Tower of London.

10.15 **Visit to The Tower of London.**

Overlooking the Thames at the Eastern edge of the ancient city walls, the Tower of London is one of the most important tourist sites in London. Famous as a place of imprisonment & death, the Tower has witnessed some of the goriest scenes in the nation's history. We will enter through the famous 'Traitors Gate' before viewing the famous Ravens of the Tower, each of which has a name & is fed pure beef twice a day to maintain their glossy feathers. Starting at the execution block, we will have a short talk by one of the Beefeaters about the history of the Tower. Afterwards we will visit one of the most secure buildings in the world to view the Crown Jewels. This is always a popular visit & many pupils enjoy taking a photo of Tower Bridge afterwards, which spans the river directly next to the Tower.

12.00 Coach transfer to The Imperial War Museum.

12.30 Picnic lunch at the Imperial War Museum.

13.00 **Visit to The Imperial War Museum.**

Two huge naval guns mark the entrance to The Imperial War Museum - the most comprehensive museum of modern warfare in the country. Covering all aspects of warfare, from the heroes to the villains, from those in the front lines to the people left at home, the Imperial War Museum is of great importance to anyone studying or interested in the wars of the twentieth century.

The exhibits range from original tanks, guns, aircraft and torpedoes to personal letters, photographs, and sound recordings. The museum also contains some of the century's best-known paintings from several wars.

Pupils will be allowed to roam the museum in groups and we will schedule visits for the First World War Trench Experience and the Second World War Blitz Experience.

15.00 Onward coach transfer to HMS Belfast.

15.30

Visit to H.M.S. Belfast

Berthed on the Thames almost underneath Blackfriars Bridge, H.M.S. Belfast was a 6-inch battle cruiser designed for offensive action, the protection of trade vessels and a powerful support for amphibious operations.

She saw much active service including the Battle of the North Cape on 26 December 1943 and, most significantly, in the attacks on France during the D-Day Operation Overlord campaign. H.M.S. Belfast formed part of the massive bombardment force which pulverised the Normandy coastline in preparation for the infantry beach assaults. After D-Day itself, H.M.S. Belfast remained in the Channel area until 10th July bombarding enemy targets ashore and helping to protect other ships in the Task Force from surface attack. Afterwards, she sailed to the Far East to help in the war against Japan.

17.00

Transfer to Covent Garden.

17.30

Shopping Time in Covent Garden.

Pupils will enjoy some shopping time in the pedestrianised market of Covent Garden where they may choose to visit the tourist market stalls or the shops lining the square. Alternatively, many students often enjoy simply watching the excellent street entertainers performing their tricks in the central piazza.

18.30

Walk to Planet Hollywood Restaurant, Picadilly.

19.00

Dinner at London's Planet Hollywood Restaurant.

Planet Hollywood is the dining experience owned by the actors Bruce Willis, Arnold Schwarzenegger & Sylvester Stallone. We will enjoy a burger meal with fries & soda in a dining area specially reserved for our group.

20.30

Transfer to Hotel Britannia.

21.00

E.T.A. Hotel Britannia.

DAY THREE

08.30 Breakfast.

09.30 Coach transfer to The Britain at War Experience, London.

10.15 **Visit to The Britain at War Experience.**

We will visit this excellent museum detailing the everyday lives of those people who lived in London during the Blitz. Pupils will experience special-effects which simulate the fury and danger of a blitz attack. When Dame Vera Lynn visited this exhibition she exclaimed 'I thought I was back in the war - it was unbelievable. All children should visit this nostalgic and moving experience to see what it was really like for the ordinary people during World War Two'.

Britain At War is more than just a tourist attraction, it's a unique trip down memory lane for those who lived through those bitter-sweet days and is an educational must for all those too young to remember. You are there inside a bombed out department store while screaming shells rain all round you. Searchlights fill up the night sky while ack-ack guns fire on the enemy aircraft overhead. Pick your way through the smouldering rubble to the main street and see the remains of the cinema, pub and people's homes. The wail of the air raid siren mingles with the noise and confusion of the rescuers, while firefighters tackle the raging blaze and carry a girl to safety. You may be able to escape past the burst water main but wait.. you have to pass an unexploded bomb which could go off at any second!..

Take the lift to the London Underground air raid shelter and see where thousands spent sleepless nights. Keep up to date with the wartime news in the underground cinema or read all about it in the memorable news pages. Huddle in the Anderson shelter and hear all the terrifying noises of an air raid overhead. Enter the BBC Radio Studio and tune into Rome, Washington, London and Berlin for the latest message from Churchill, Chamberlain, Roosevelt, Ed Murrow, Hitler and Lord Haw Haw. See the Drury Lane dressing room and catch a glimpse of the "spirit of the times" reminding you of the stars of the war years. Look in at Rainbow corner - a club to entertain GI's, here you can see the 'Varga' pin-ups. See real wartime bombs, rare documents and photographs in the unique Bomb disposal display... you can even hear a ticking bomb.

12.00 Transfer to Hampton Court Palace.

13.30 **Afternoon Visit to Hampton Court Palace.**

Located by the banks of the Thames in the south-west of London, this is the finest of England's Royal Palaces. Built in 1516 by Cardinal Wolsey, it became the main Royal Palace under Henry VIII. We will visit the King's Apartments & Henry VIII's State Apartments before visiting the highlight of the tour - the Tudor kitchens. Pupils will see the preparations for a Royal banquet, including the enormous roasting fires, the herb garret, the meat & game storage room as well as the pastry area. After visiting the interior of the palace we will view the gardens, which were modelled on those of Versailles. Prizes will be provided for those pupils who are the first to exit the ancient maze.

16.30 Return transfer to Central London.

DAY FOUR

08.30 Breakfast.

09.30 Depart London. Coach transfer to Warwick Castle.

12.00 **E.T.A. Warwick. Visit to Warwick Castle.**

Often described as 'the greatest medieval castle in Britain', Warwick Castle is set on a commanding position overlooking the River Avon. Built in 915AD by the daughter of Alfred The Great, the castle was added to by the Normans who built a large motte & bailey at the end of the eleventh century. The present day stronghold with its keep, elaborate gatehouses, turrets & formidable stone castle were built by the Earl of Warwick, who played an important part in the Hundred Years' War against the French. Many of the French prisoners from the Hundred Years War spent time languishing in the prisons of Warwick Castle while ransom negotiations were carried out.

Today Warwick Castle is owned by the Madame Tussauds group & contains some excellent waxwork displays including the 'Royal Weekend Party, 1898' & 'A Kingmaker's Preparation for Battle' which includes smells & sounds as well as the waxwork figures. After visiting the main castle we will have time to cross the footbridge over the River Avon to visit River Island, where jousting tournaments & medieval sports competitions are frequently held.

16.00 Depart Warwick Castle. Transfer to School.

19.30 **E.T.A. School.**