



Itinerary For a Three Day History Study Tour to London. Prepared For The History Department.

Dates: To Be Confirmed



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 Group Leader(s). Flexibility is also built into the tour itself as changes can be made at very short notice according to weather conditions etc. The tour can be guided throughout. All excursions are well-prepared and are backed by notes and a commentary. The tour guide is able to run the tour according to Group Leader wishes. In this way Group Leaders will be free to concentrate on the care of their pupils rather than the organisation of the tour. The whole stay is underpinned by excellent accommodation, catering, transport and security.

ACCOMMODATION



The Hotel Meininger London**

65-67 Queen's Gate, South Kensington, London SW7 5JS

Tel: 02033181407.

Located in the prestigious South Kensington region of London, the Hotel Meininger is perfectly sited within a 5 minute walk from Hyde Park, the Royal Albert Hall & the Natural History Museum, in the very heart of the city. Having Buckingham Palace just up the road has its advantages. The Queen herself has visited the hotel in the past (although not spent a night). There are several delightful restaurants & cafes in the surrounding area & travel connections allow for rapid transfers between visits.

There is a popular meeting area with café & bar at reception where students can meet & chat. Free superfast wifi operates throughout the hotel. The breakfasts are plentiful & will fill up young tummies for a day of sightseeing.

All bedrooms have flat-screen TV's, en-suite bathrooms with towels & toiletries provided. Some of the rooms are dormitory style with bunkbeds, each with their own nightlights & USB chargers.

The reception team are extremely helpful & friendly & we have found the Meininger Hotel to provide dynamic, exciting yet homely & comfortable accommodation for our groups visiting London.

CATERING

The catering in London proves to be a highlight for many of the groups that have joined us.

En Route

We ask parents to supply a packed lunch for the outward journey. On the final day, lunch is the final meal provided by Varsity Travel so participants should keep £10 to purchase an evening meal during the return transfer.

Breakfast

An extensive continental breakfast of croissants, bread, butter, jam, coffee, tea or hot chocolate is served in a large open-space area next to reception.

Lunch

The basic tour cost does not include lunches but we can include these in your tour price should you wish to.

For lunch, the Tour Guide will distribute lunch money to students before taking the group to a particularly good area of the city for cafes, restaurants & pizzerias. Participants will have a wide choice of food & can either purchase a sandwich & a drink, enjoy a pizza on the terrace of a restaurant or try a bowl of pasta from one of the many good outlets. The use of lunch money has proved to be very popular with students as it provides an opportunity to explore, try the local food & converse with the locals who are always friendly & helpful.

Dinner

Evening meals are a time for participants to experience fine dinners together as a group. We use a variety of great restaurants in central London including Planet Hollywood, Bubba Gump's, Pizza Express & other well-known chains. The restaurants have proved immensely popular with our groups and are flexible enough to cope with all dietary requirements.

DAY ONE

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

06.45 Coach arrives at School.

07.00 Depart School. Coach transfer to Warwick.

11.00 **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.

14.30 Transfer to London.

17.00 **Exploration of London's Covent Garden.**

Pupils will enjoy an ice-cream or a drink in the pedestrianised area of Covent Garden, where they will be able to view the various street entertainers who perform on the ancient cobbled marketplace or visit some of the shops & market stalls on the square.

18.30 Dinner at the Pizza Express Restaurant, Piccadilly.

20.00 Transfer to The Meininger Hotel, South Kensington.

20.45 E.T.A. Meininger Hotel. Check in, allocate room keys & outline fire procedure.

DAY TWO

08.00 Breakfast.

09.15 Transfer to H.M.S. Belfast.

10.00 **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.

11.45 Coach transfer to The Imperial War Museum.

12.15 Picnic lunch at the Imperial War Museum.

12.45 **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 **Boat Cruise on River Thames.**

We will enjoy a boat cruise on the Thames by the official London Eye boat which departs from directly underneath the imposing structure of the London Eye. Participants will view the Tower of London, The Houses of Parliament, Tate Modern as well the MI5 Building, St. Pauls Cathedral & the 'Wobbly Bridge'.

16.15

The British Airways London Eye.

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

17.30

Football & Recreational Activities in London's Hyde Park.

We always combine visits of the greatest interest with recreational activities & the Tour Guide will organise a game of football or rounders in London's largest & most central park.

19.30

Dinner at Planet Hollywood, Piccadilly.

Planet Hollywood is the dining experience that was started by the actors Bruce Willis, Arnold Schwarzenegger & Sylvester Stallone. We will enjoy a burger meal with fries & soda in a dining area especially reserved for our group. The restaurant is like a museum to the worlds of film & pop music, with film & music memorabilia scattered about such as one of Jimi Hendrix' guitars, Schwarzenegger's Harley Davidson & one of Madonna's stage costumes amongst other items.

21.15

Transfer to Hotel Meininger.

21.50

E.T.A. Hotel Meininger.

DAY THREE

- 08.00 Breakfast & hotel check-out.
- 09.15 Transfer to Hampton Court Palace.
- 10.15 **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.

- 12.30 Picnic lunch at Hampton Court Palace.
- 13.15 Transfer to Duxford.

- 15.15 **Visit to The Imperial War & Aviation Museum of Duxford.**

Duxford retains its wartime atmosphere &, 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.

- 17.15 Transfer to School.

We will show a popular film during our return transfer to School.

- 21.00 E.T.A. School.**

! Please note: this itinerary is for illustration purposes & remains subject to change. The final itinerary is confirmed upon receipt of deposit payments once the hotel, sites & museums have been reserved. The itinerary, timings & hotels are suggested only !