

LONDON & PARIS: Drama Tour

(Note: This is only a sample tour)

Day 1: Depart for London.

Day 2: Arrive in **London** and meet guide for your sightseeing tour. Visit **Westminster Abbey, see Buckingham Palace, Big Ben and 10 Downing Street.**

Day 3: Visit London's Royal National Theatre, commonly called The National. The Theatre is actually 3 separate auditoria – the Olivier, the Lyttelton and the Cottesloe. Today you will enjoy a backstage tour to the unseen parts of the building on a tour led by experienced theatre guide. After your tour you will enjoy a workshop presented by the Theater. Later cross the Thames to the **Tower Bridge and the Tower of London.** The tower has a dark history with tales of torture, public executions, confinement and haunting. It has served as a castle in wartime, a king's residence in peace, and as a prison and an execution site for those of high ranks and religious dissidents. This historic fortress houses the best display of crown jewels on the earth. You will visit it this afternoon. Tonight shop till you drop along Oxford Street and Dover Street Market.



Day 4: Visit the V&A or Victoria and Albert and the **Museum Theatre Performance Collection.** The V&A's Theatre Collections holds the UK's national collection of material about live performance in the UK since Shakespeare's day, covering drama, dance, musical theatre, circus, music hall, rock and pop, and other forms of live entertainment. Here you will also experience your second Theatre Workshop. Covent Garden's is famous for its fashionable boutiques, street performers, restaurants and the Royal Opera House and is recognized as one of London's premier entertainment and leisure destination. You may wish to plan your lunch here and do a little shopping this afternoon! Then head to Soho for its patchwork of streets, also famous as an entertainment district. Tonight your first **West End Theatre performance.** London showcases the greatest talent and variety in the world in this famous district



Day 5: Guided visit to historic Elizabethan replica of **Shakespeare's Globe Theatre.** The original Globe Theatre has been rebuilt exactly as it was in Shakespeare's time. The design is based on scholarly enquiry and archeological evidence from the past two centuries. It hosts authentic old time performances of Shakespeare's plays with no amplification. Stop at **Borough Food Market** for some delectable lunch eats before you make your way to some of London's notable street markets. You won't want to miss Petticoat Lane, Portobello Road and **Camden Markets.** Tonight travel back in time to the Autumn of 1888 when a series of brutal murders brought terror and panic to the streets in London's East End. Your **Jack the Ripper Walking Tour** will follow Jack's trail on the dark, deserted crooked cobblestone alleyways of Whitechapel.

Day 6: Transfer to the train station where you will transfer via Eurostar to **Paris.** Meet your guide for an orientation city walking tour. Visit Notre Dame Cathedral, and Ste Chappelle and possibly the Conciergerie, all of which are located on the Ile de La Cite. Ste Chappelle was founded by King Louis IX who constructed it as a royal chapel and to house precious relics. The Conciergerie was built in the early 14th century and became the first prison of Paris. During the French Revolution nearly 3000 of the condemned, including Marie Antoinette, spent their last days here. Today you can visit the Prisoners Gallery where cells have been reconstructed according to the time as well as a few mementos of the French Revolution. Make your way to the Latin Quarter for the evening. At one time only Latin was spoken here! Today it is brimming with cafes, restaurants, little bookstores, and tourist shops.



Day 7: Today a guided visit to the **Louvre**. Then see Place Vendome, Place de la Concorde and Palais Royale. Walk towards the Champs Elysee and the Arc de Triomphe. See Ave de Montaigne and Rue du Faubourg, Saint Honore, widely cited as the most fashionable streets in the world. Tonight enjoy a relaxing Seine cruise.

Day 8: Visit **Versailles**. See the Grand Apartments, Hall of Mirrors, King's and Queen's suites, and other sights. Return to Paris and see the famous cabaret, Moulin Rouge. Walk the Boulevard Clichy to Montmartre, one of the most picturesque and lively quarters of the city. Climb or take the funicular up to Sacre Coeur, a beautiful white basilica, magnetically towering from the highest point in Montmartre. Tonight ascend the **Eiffel Tower**.

Day 9: Paris is famous for two important opera houses, the **Opera Garnier and the Opera Bastille**. The Opera Bastille, determined to be the Place de la Bastille, is a modern building that was intended to replace the Opera Garnier but it did not work that way and today they both offer world renowned opera performances. The Opera Garnier offers guided tours that include a visit to the public foyers, the main auditorium and the backstage areas. This morning enjoy your guided visit. The remainder of the day visit some of Paris's grands magasins (department stores), Galeries Lafayette and Printemps.

Day 10: Au revoir Paris.

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Return airfare to London return Paris
- One way Eurostar London - Paris
- Coach transfers:
 - o London – return airport and train station
 - o Paris – return airport and train station transfers
- Assistance upon arrival in London and Paris
- 8 nights hotel accommodation with private facilities
- 8 Breakfasts
- 4 dinners
- Guided orientation tours
 - o Walking in London
 - o Jack the Ripper in London
 - o Walking in Paris
- Entrances/visits:
 - o Westminster Abbey
 - o Tower of London
 - o Royal National Theatre backstage tour
 - o Royal National Theatre workshop
 - o 1 West End Theatre
 - o Globe Theatre backstage tour
 - o Entrance V & A Museum
 - o V & A Theatre workshop
 - o Guided tour Louvre
 - o Seine Cruise
 - o Eiffel Tower
 - o Versailles with audio guides
 - o Guided Opera Garnier theatre tour
- 4 day tube pass for London
- 4 day Metro pass for Paris

