

# UNITED KINGDOM: Fashion 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:** Day 3: Meet your guide in East London for a **full day of exciting fashion activities.** Many of the radical changes in fashion that occurred in the 1960's and 70's developed in the streets of London. Designers such as Mary Quant pioneered the mini skirt in the 60's, while punk with the ripped T shirts and Doc Martens dominated the 70's. In complete contrast was Laura Ashley who popularized the nostalgic long flouncy skirts and high necked blouses in floral prints. Your guide will take you on a walking tour through the area including **Brick Lane and Spitalfields Market** for some rare fashion delights. Later you will be escorted to a local design studio where you will participate in a hands on workshop from a designer whose mandate is sustainable styling. Learn the successful secrets to deconstructing, recutting and completely transforming ready to wear. After lunch on your own, **meet a designer** and **visit the studio** where the magic happens.



**Day 4:** Today is a half day immersed in the **London fashion scene** in Soho and Covent Gardens. Covent Gardens is famous for its fashionable boutiques, street performers, restaurants and the Royal Opera House and is recognized as London's premier entertainment and leisure destination. Soho's patchwork of streets is also famous as an entertainment district and has gone through dramatic alterations since its origins at the time of Henry VIII. Meet and talk with a store owner and a fashion blogger. Later visit some of London's notable street markets such as Petticoat Lane, Portobello Road and Camden Markets. Tonight is your West End Theatre performance.



**Day 5:** This morning visit the **Tower of London.** The tower has a notorious history of murder, confinement and intrigue and has served as a castle in wartime, a king's residence in peace, and as a prison and execution site and houses the best display of crown jewels on earth. Later cross the Thames to the **Southbank** Area, home to attractions, theatres, restaurants, exhibitions, festivals and all sorts of family fun activities. As you explore the Southbank, be sure to stop at **Borough Food Market** for some delectable lunchtime eats. Walk to the **Fashion Museum** for a visit or attend the **Globe Theatre Exhibition and Tour.** Tonight shop till you drop along Oxford Street and Dover Street Market.

**Day 6:** Make your way to **Buckingham Palace** to catch the changing of the guard. Then travel directly to London's Victoria and Albert Museum with its **fabulous costume exhibit.** The Victoria and Albert Museum has collected dresses since its earliest days and its collection includes fashionable dress from the 17th century to the present day. The V & A collections also include accessories such as jewelry, gloves and handbags. Later visit Camden Market and Covent Garden this evening.

**Day 7:** Full day excursion to **Bath and Stonehenge.** Stonehenge is the most famous of the great prehistoric monuments of the British Isles. Carry on to Bath. Bath is a perfect 18th century city, perhaps the best preserved in all of Britain. The museum and elegant shops and terraces of magnificent town houses are a joy to experience. After your guided tour of Bath visit the remains of these Roman Baths and as well the Fashion Museum which is housed in Bath's magnificent Assembly Rooms next to the Royal Crescent in Bath's upper town. To Stratford for overnight.



**Day 8: Stratford-Upon-Avon** is located in Warwickshire where Shakespeare was born in 1564. Your guide will trace his life story in Stratford, from his birthplace on Henley Street to his tomb in Holy Trinity Church. There is still an aura of Old Elizabethan England among Stratford's timbered inns and 16th century houses with their oddly protruding upper story.. See The Royal Shakespeare Theatre on the banks of the Avon is the number one theatre for Shakespearean productions. The present theatre was opened in 1932 after the old Shakespeare Memorial Theatre burned down in 1926. Then to Anne Hathaway's thatched roof cottage in Shottery on the edge of the town, the early home of the playwright's wife Transfer to airport for flight to Edinburgh.

**Day 9:** Day in **Edinburgh** sightseeing some of the most important and interesting sites Meet your guide at Edinburgh Castle for your half day guided walking tour followed by a visit to the Castle. The Castle dominates the skyline and is the most visited site in the city for not only the historical interest of this remarkable fortress and former royal residence, but also because it offers splendid panoramic views of the city. The Castle is situated overlooking Edinburgh's Old Town, or The Royal Mile where a walk down the historic narrow wynds and closes is one of the most captivating experiences the city has to offer. As you make your way through old town you will pay tribute to three great literary Scots - Sir Walter Scott, Robert Louis Stevenson and Robert Burns, as well as Greyfriars Bobby, the famous faithful terrier who in 1858 lived for 14 years never venturing much beyond his masters grave. The Palace of Holyroodhouse was begun for King James IV in the early sixteenth century. The Palace is now the residence of Her Majesty the Queen when she and other members of the Royal Family make their regular visits to Edinburgh. Mary, Queen of Scots, spent the six tragic years of her reign here.

**Day 10:** Today is a full day in Edinburgh on your own schedule. To the north of the **Royal Mile** is Edinburgh's New Town, which is one of Britain's architectural gems with by far the largest area of Georgian architecture in Europe. "New Town" was created in the 18th Century! Between the Castle and the new Town is Princes Street, perhaps one of the most famous streets in the world. Choose to shop or perhaps you wish to climb the Scott Monument, visit the Museum of Childhood, St Giles Cathedral, John Knox House or Mary Kings Close.

**Day 11:** Cheerio. Time to depart for home.

## **TOUR INCLUSIONS**

- Return airfare to London return Edinburgh
  - One way flight London - Edinburgh
  - Coach transfers:
    - o London – arrival
    - o Edinburgh – return airport transfers
    - o 2 day coach visits to Stonehenge, Bath and Stratford
  - Assistance upon arrival in London
  - 9 nights hotel accommodation with private facilities
  - 9 Breakfasts
  - 4 dinners
  - Guided orientation tours
    - o Walking in London
    - o Walking in Bath
    - o Walking in Stratford
    - o Walking in Edinburgh
  - Fashion Activities
    - 1 ½ days in London including
      - o Walking tour of the east end
      - o Hands on workshop
      - o Visit to designer and studio
      - o Guided visit to Soho and Covent Garden fashion scene
      - o Information session with store owner
      - o Information session with Fashion blogger
  - 5 day tube pass for London
- Entrances/visits:
    - o Westminster Abbey
    - o Tower of London
    - o 1 West End Theatre
    - o Fashion Museum or Theatre backstage tour
    - o V & A Museum
    - o Stonehenge
    - o Roman Baths
    - o Fashion Museum Bath
    - o Anne Hathaway's House Stratford
    - o Edinburgh Castle

