



## Curtain Time in London



8 or 9 DAYS

# Curtain Time in London

England



## Program Fee includes:

- Round-trip airfare
- 6 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms (7 with extension)
- Complete European breakfast and dinner daily (lunch instead of dinner on Day 4)
- Full-time EF Tour Director
- 4 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides: London • Windsor • Tower of London • Globe Theatre
- 1 EF walking tour: London
- 4 visits to special attractions: Theatre Museum • Windsor Castle • Tower of London Globe Theatre
- 2 theater performances
- 7-day Visitor Underground Travelcard
- Globe Theatre Workshop

## OPTIONAL:

London Eye and Thames River cruise  
 OR Medieval Dinner (seasonal)  
 Stonehenge and Bath  
 Oxford and Stratford

## WITH EXTENSION: All of the above PLUS:

- 1 sightseeing tour led by a licensed local guide: Theatre Royal Drury Lane
- 1 theater performance



PBS

Learn before you go  
[www.eftours.com/pbsuk](http://www.eftours.com/pbsuk)



Get a taste of London's theater scene at a musical in the city's West End.

## Day 1 Flight

**Overnight flight to Great Britain** • Relax as you fly across the Atlantic.

## Day 2 London

**Arrival in London** • Touch down in London, Europe's largest city! After clearing customs you are greeted by your EF Tour Director, who will remain with you throughout your stay.

**EF walking tour of London** • Stroll through the heart of London on our EF walking tour, which begins along the banks of the River Thames. These shadowy waters gave the city its name, which derives from Llyn-Dyn, Celtic for "city of the lake." Walk along the Strand and see the spot considered to be London's geographic center; all measurements of distances to London end here. Enter Trafalgar Square and pause at Nelson's Column, built to commemorate his 1805 victory in the Battle of Trafalgar. Continue on to Leicester Square, where duelists once fought to the death. Then saunter through London's tiny Chinatown. Your walk ends at chic Covent Garden, where

you'll enjoy watching street performers (or "buskers") amuse the lively crowds. (The exact walking route may vary, depending on your hotel location and the day's other activities.)

**Visit to the Theatre Museum** • Discover Britain's vibrant performing arts scene from the 16th century to the present at the Theatre Museum. Costumes, performance videos, manuscripts, posters, paintings and designs comprise the vast collection of works that celebrates all forms of performance, including drama, dance, opera, musical theater, circus, puppetry, music and live art.



Number of overnight stays in parentheses.

### Day 3 London

**Guided sightseeing of London** • A local guide leads you on a panoramic tour of London. Begin in Grosvenor Square, which is sometimes called “Little America” because it’s the site of the U.S. embassy and the house where Eisenhower once lived. Continue to Hyde Park Corner, located at the southeast corner of Hyde Park, one of London’s largest parks. At bustling Piccadilly Circus, the intersection of five busy streets, check out the bright lights and big-city displays, before heading to Trafalgar Square. Pass Speaker’s Corner, where anyone with something to say is invited to speak his mind. Snap a photo of the Houses of Parliament and continue along London’s South Bank for views of the famous Tower of London and London Bridge. Stroll across the Millennium Bridge for an orientation of St. Paul’s Cathedral, the magnificent 17th-century Baroque church designed by Sir Christopher Wren. Finally, witness a London tradition—the Changing of the Guard (subject to scheduling).

**Guided excursion to Windsor** • Journey to Windsor Castle for a guided tour of the Royal Family’s retreat. Founded by William the Conqueror in 1070, the castle has undergone many renovations over the last 800 years, as each new monarch has added a tower here and a wing there. Legend holds that the castle’s Round Tower was built on the site where King Arthur sat with his Knights of the Round Table. Priceless objects reside in the State Apartments, ranging from paintings by Rubens and Holbein to Henry VIII’s sword and suit of armor. Time permitting, visit Queen Mary’s Dolls’ House and St. George’s Chapel, final resting place of many monarchs including Henry VIII and Charles I. (Please note that St. George’s Chapel is closed on Sunday mornings for church services.) On the rare occasion that Windsor Castle is closed, you’ll instead visit Henry VIII’s extravagant retreat at Hampton Court.

**Evening theater** • Celebrate London’s vibrant drama scene as you attend an evening theater performance in the West End.

### Day 4 London

**Guided visit to the Tower of London** • A professional guide will take you through over 900 years of royal history at this World Heritage Site. The oldest of the 20 towers, known as the White Tower, was completed in 1097, at which time it was the tallest building in London. Here, you can see the original armors of

Henry VIII and Charles I, as well as former instruments of torture. Learn about the history of some of the tower’s prisoners, including Guy Fawkes and Anne Boleyn. See the magnificent Crown Jewels in the Martin Tower, and say hello to the site’s most faithful residents, the ravens.

**Free time in London** • Ask your tour director for fun suggestions!

**Optional Thames River cruise and London Eye (seasonal)** • Choose to join this exciting optional excursion, which is available from April to October. See London’s sights from a different angle—take a ride aboard the London Eye. The enormous 32-capsule observation wheel offers spectacular 360-degree views of the city as far as 25 miles in each direction. The idea for the wheel was originally conceived to mark the millennium celebration in 2000 and took six years to build. Afterwards, enjoy a cruise down the Thames.

**Optional Medieval Dinner (seasonal)** • During the winter months, you can choose to join King Henry VIII at our optional five-course Medieval Dinner, held along the Thames in one of the most picturesque areas of London. A choir of minstrels will herald your arrival inside the banquet hall’s historic vaults, located near the medieval Tower of London. Experience British pageantry and Olde English fare as sword-fighting knights, magicians, jesters and

balladeers perform throughout this five-course feast. The medieval festivities commence with the presentation of the traditional boar’s head! (Please note that this optional is subject to availability, and is not offered on Mondays.)

### Day 5 London

**Optional excursion to Stonehenge and Bath** • This full-day guided excursion takes you through the English countryside to visit two historical landmarks that together span 4,000 years of English history! First, you’ll visit Stonehenge, England’s most mysterious landmark. The origin and purpose of this ring of stones, which dates from the Neolithic period, is unknown, though most believe it to have been a temple and observatory. Before returning to London, you’ll also visit Bath, famous for its Georgian architecture, a lasting reminder of the world described in so many Jane Austen novels. In her novel *Northanger Abbey*, Austen wrote, “I really believe I shall always be talking of Bath ... I do like it so very much. Oh! who can ever be tired of Bath.” This spa was a favorite vacation spot of early Romans and 18th-century English aristocracy alike; former residents include Queen Victoria and Lord Nelson. Visit the acclaimed Roman baths, built by the Romans in the 1st century to enjoy the hot springs. Today, these baths remain the finest Roman ruins in Britain.

Salute the long-standing regal traditions of British royalty at Windsor Castle, built nearly 1,000 years ago.



**Free time in London** • Alternatively, enjoy free time in London. You might wish to visit the original Hard Rock Café or Madame Tussauds wax museum, or look for Sherlock Holmes' house on Baker Street. Or visit the fascinating exhibits of London's Natural History Museum.

#### **Day 6 London**

**Guided tour of the Globe Theatre** • Built just 200 yards from its original site, London's new Globe Theatre transports visitors to Elizabethan England. Those were the days when rowdy groundlings hurled rotten food at the actors to express displeasure with a performance, and villains like *Othello's* Iago were mercilessly heckled by the enthusiastic crowd. You might recognize this theater from the film *Shakespeare in Love*—crew members constructed an exact replica of the Globe to preserve the historical accuracy of the time period.

**Globe Theatre workshop** • Take a fresh approach to Shakespeare during a workshop at London's Globe Theatre. During Elizabethan times, the Thames-side playhouse was popular with Londoners craving a little Shakespearian diversion. Learn about the layout and social importance of the theater and develop a keener sense of Shakespeare with a variety of hands-on activities. (In cases where the workshop is not available, groups will instead participate in an interactive lecture.)

**Evening theater performance** • After dinner, you'll once again join the world's most discerning theater-goers as you enjoy another live theater performance.

#### **Day 7 London**

##### **Optional excursion to Oxford and Stratford** •

Visit two of England's most acclaimed towns as you journey into the English countryside. First, travel through the Chiltern Hills to ivy-draped Oxford, a mecca of learning for over 800 years. Stroll down High Street, lined with the architectural treasures of the university's medieval colleges. Poets, prime ministers and presidents have all been educated in these ancient stone buildings. Next, it's on to Stratford-upon-Avon, famous not only as the place where Shakespeare was born, married and buried, but also for its Elizabethan (16th-century) buildings. You will visit Shakespeare's birthplace and see the old-fashioned English gardens and orchard of Anne Hathaway's Cottage (Hathaway was Shakespeare's wife, to whom he willed his "second-best bed").

**Free time in London** • Alternatively, enjoy more free time in London. You can ask your tour director for more fun suggestions.

#### **Day 8 Home**

**Return home** • Your tour director assists with the transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

#### **EXTENSION**

##### **Day 8 London**

**Drury Lane Theatre** • Alternatively, your group can extend its stay one day to visit the Drury Lane Theatre. This enduring symbol of the arts has survived two fires (the second time after a supposedly "fireproof" reconstruction burned to the ground) and years of mismanagement to become England's oldest theater still in use. First opened in 1663, it has for the most part thrived through the centuries, staging theatrical masterpieces like *King Lear*, *Macbeth* and *Hamlet*. On this guided sightseeing tour, "Through the Stage Door," get a behind-the-scenes look at what makes this great theater tick! (If the Drury Lane Theatre is closed, you will instead visit the Theatre Museum.)

**Evening theater performance** • This evening, enjoy another theater performance.

##### **Day 9 Home**

**Return home** • Your tour director assists with the transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

**For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions.**

**Discover the Global Classroom**

