

# ACROSS THE CHANNEL



## Day 1

Depart from home city.

## Day 2: City Tour and Orientation

Upon arrival in London, get acquainted with the city on a **motorcoach overview tour** of the major sites, including **Buckingham Palace**, **Trafalgar Square**, **The Houses of Parliament** and **Clock Tower** (aka **Big Ben**), **Westminster Abbey**, **St. Paul's Cathedral**, and **The Tower of London**.

Your **Focus Director** will familiarize you with the area around your hotel and share practical information about London such as banking, mail services, phone, personal security, and health care. Check into your hotel and enjoy free time until dinner.

Feast on a **traditional dinner** of fish and chips or bangers and mash.

## Day 3: City of London

Explore the history and architecture of the city's oldest section, the **City of London** – or more commonly, “the City.” Tour **St. Paul's Cathedral**, then the **Tower of London**, a site nearly 1,000 years old that has served as a residential palace, fortress, royal mint, bank, arsenal, and most infamously, a prison. Head to one of the most recognizable bridges in the world, the **Tower Bridge**, to learn its history and enjoy views of London along its high-level walkway. Cross the bridge and continue along the southern banks of the Thames past **Southwark Cathedral** and **Shakespeare's Globe Theatre**.

## Art or Scam?

While exploring the **Tate Modern**, discuss the spectrum of the word ‘art’—from traditional to absurd. Students will pair up to scour the museum for the most unexpected and crazy pieces, while making notes and preparing to debate what they think is truly art!

Dine like a local with **dinner in an English pub** – a place where business is conducted, friends gather, and celebrations are unleashed.

## Day 4: Royal London

Begin your exploration of Royal London with a visit to **Westminster Abbey**—the most ancient of London's great churches, the crowning place of British monarchs since 1066, and location of the tombs of Charles Darwin, Charles Dickens, and Sir Isaac Newton, to name a few.

Walk up Whitehall and down Pall Mall to **Buckingham Palace** to watch **Changing the Guard**.

Spend the afternoon exploring the world's greatest collection of antiquities in the **British Museum**. It houses over 13 million items, including the Rosetta Stone and the Elgin Marbles.

Delve into the city's creepiest corners on a **walking ghost tour of London's secret haunts**.

## Day 5: The City of Lights

Travel by Eurostar to the historically dynamic and artistically romantic capital of France. Familiarize yourself with Paris on a **motorcoach overview tour** highlighting notable landmarks such as the **Eiffel Tower**, the **Champs-Élysées**, **Arc de Triomphe**, the **Louvre**, and **Notre Dame**.

**Stop by a pâtisserie** for your first taste of French delicacies. Check into your hotel. Your **Focus Director** will familiarize you with the areas around your hotel and share practical information with you such as banking, mail services, phone, personal security, and health care.

Dive into the spectacular village atmosphere of **Montmartre**, a Mecca for artists, writers, and poets. In addition to its hilled ascent, small, lively streets, and vineyard, the area's **Sacré Coeur Basilica** is the highest point in Paris and offers a spectacular view of the city.

From the **Eiffel Tower** to **Notre Dame**, soak up the distinctive character and romance of Paris after dark as you glide along the **Seine River** on a **regal night cruise**.

## Day 6: Mythical Paris

### ↳ Versailles

Leave Paris and drive west to the **Palace of Versailles**. As the home of Louis XIV, the Sun King, this palace housed as many as 20,000 people at a time. Tour the Queen's and King's Bedrooms, the **Hall of Mirrors**, and extensive gardens of flowers and fountains.

Let I.M. Pei's **Glass Pyramid** be your guide as you head to the world's most visited museum – the **Louvre**! Its collection of over 380,000 objects includes da Vinci's **Mona Lisa** and Michelangelo's **The Dying Slave**.

Spend the evening at the **Eiffel Tower** for an after-hours, birds-eye view of the City of Lights. (*Admission to the 2nd floor included.*)

## Day 7: Tastes of Timeless Paris

### ↳ Morning at the Market

Join Parisians in a time-honored tradition by starting your **morning at a French market**. Shop among locals while surrounded by aromatic cheeses, fresh vegetables, and high-energy merchants. This is a great chance to delve into an authentic French atmosphere.

Head to the **Arc de Triomphe**, a massive arch honoring all those who have fought for France. Your Focus Director will then guide you down the **Les Champs-Élysées** and give you time to explore the famous street's shops and cafés. End your walk at the **Place de la Concorde**; now beautifully showcasing a fountain and Egyptian obelisk, this was the site of the beheading of Marie Antoinette and Louis XVI.



The Queen's Guards at Buckingham Palace



L'Arc de Triomphe's elaborate underbelly



Students pause before the Eiffel Tower



One student takes a break alongside a London fountain

# LONDON AND PARIS PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

## 8, 9, OR 10 DAY PROGRAM



London's Tower Bridge, spanning the River Thames

Discover the historic center of the city where medieval buildings coexist with crowds of lively young students when you choose one **guided walking tour with an Expert Guide**, then enjoy free time in the other district. Both options include admission to **Notre Dame** and a visit to the **Flower Market** on **Île de la Cité**.

**Option 1:** Tour the **Latin Quarter**, a lively student district and location of two important Roman ruins – an arena and well-preserved baths. End your tour in the relaxing **Jardins du Luxembourg**.

**Option 2:** Take a guided tour of **L'Île de la Cité**, the island center of Paris throughout the Middle Ages. One of the notable sites is **Notre Dame**, a superb example of French gothic architecture built nearly 900 years ago.

### Day 8: Au Revoir, Paris

Enjoy free time in the early morning for one last walk down the city's charming streets, or stop in for a sweet at your favorite pâtisserie.

A motorcoach will then take you to the airport for your flight home.

### Choose to extend your program with the following options:

#### **E** Option 1: Windsor Castle, Eton College

In Windsor, visit the largest inhabited castle in the world. It has been a working palace and fortress for over 900 years. Afterward, cross the bridge onto the campus of **Eton College**. Originally founded in 1440 by Henry VI as a school for paupers, it is now England's finest private school.

After dinner, we take part in a 500-year-old London tradition by **attending a West End theatre performance**.

#### **E** Option 2: Normandy

Drive northwest to the beaches of **Normandy**, home to a pinnacle chapter in history as the location for the 1944 Allied invasion of Europe. Your tour will take you to **Omaha Beach**, the **U.S. cemetery at Coleville**, and the **Landings Museum at Arromanches**.

**Note:** *This itinerary may be modified depending on your travel dates, arrival and departure times, national holidays, and hours of operation in the host country. Prices vary depending on departure city and duration of program.*

### Landmarks

- Buckingham Palace
- Trafalgar Square
- Houses of Parliament
- Big Ben
- Westminster Abbey
- St. Paul's Cathedral
- Tower of London
- Tower Bridge
- Globe Theatre
- Eiffel Tower (*with admission to 2<sup>nd</sup> level*)
- Champs Élysées
- Place de la Concorde
- Arc de Triomphe
- Sacré Coeur Basilica
- Notre Dame
- Latin Quarter
- Île de la Cité
- Les Jardins du Luxembourg

### Museums and Galleries

- Tate Modern
- British Museum
- Louvre

### Interactive Insights

- Art or Scam?
- Morning at the Market

### Eye-opening Excursions

- Versailles
- Windsor Castle, Eton College (*program extension*)
- Normandy (*program extension*)



A majestic statue at the Palace of Versailles



Teacher and students enjoying the Seine River Cruise



Paris' Eiffel Tower beneath the night's sky