

LONDON'S NEW YEAR'S DAY PARADE

Sample itinerary: Marching Band







# Sample Itinerary

#### Your hotel

Hilton London Kensington 179-199 Holland Park Avenue London W11 4UJ

**Telephone**: 020 7603 3355

Nearest Tube: Shepherd's Bush or

Holland Park

Lines from this station: Central Line

LNYDP prides itself in providing only superior first class hotels located in the heart of London and within walking distance of many of the places you may wish to visit. Your accommodations will have en-suite facilities, including bath and/or shower and WC, plus all of the usual amenities associated with a first class hotel. This includes housekeeping services with linen and towel change, room service, direct dial telephone, flat screen TV with satellite stations, WIFI, personal safes etc.







## DAY 1

Depart on your flight(s) to London.

Flights may be multi-sectored. One main meal and one snack meal will be served on your transatlantic flight, along with complimentary soft drinks. Movies and audio entertainment will also be available on your transatlantic flight.

## DAY 2

On your arrival in London, after clearing immigration and customs, you will be assisted by the LNYDP 'Meet & Greet' airport team and taken by motor coach to your hotel. There may be a wait before you have access to your room and so we will schedule lunch and a walk of the local area.

Your tour assistant will inform you of the time and place for an orientation meeting, where you will learn all about your week in London.

At this meeting, you will receive your special LNYDP souvenir drawstring bag containing all the items you need to make the most of your exciting week ahead. This includes:

- Your pocket sized itinerary book which you will carry with you all week. Not only does it contain this detailed daily schedule, it also has maps and directions for your walking tours as well as a useful information section. Check out the apps!
- An LNYDP wallet containing your hotel information card, to always

keep with you in case of an emergency.

- Your MP3 player, loaded with four unique self-guided walking tours of London that are an integral part of your itinerary this week. Please check that your player is fully charged. It may need a top up before you start your first walk.
- A fold out LNYDP street map of London to help you plan your at leisure activities this week.

Lunch at leisure.

Once everyone in your party has arrived and settled in, you will board your motor coach for a trip downtown. You will be dropped in Berkeley Square, the assembly area for LNYDP and also the starting point for the first of your audio walks, the Parade Route. This will take you along the spectacular processional route of London's New Year's Day Parade, through the heart of Westminster. It features The Ritz Hotel. Piccadilly, Piccadilly Circus, Trafalgar Square, Whitehall and Parliament Square, Learn about the rich history of the area and the buildings along the route, with the added flavour of the pomp and ceremony of the parade.

Re-join your motor coach and return to your hotel.

Dinner will be served in a private room in your hotel.

The rest of the evening is free for you to acclimatise to European time.













## DAY 3

A substantial buffet breakfast will be served each morning in a private room in your hotel at the time indicated in your daily itinerary.

Breakfast is served.

Meet your Blue Badge guide and board your motor coach for today's tour.

This morning we will whisk you away on a spectacular tour of London's most famous landmarks, including the Palace of Westminster, home of the two Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral and the Tower of London.

Soak up the atmosphere as your Blue Badge guide introduces you to over 1,000 years of history. This is also your opportunity to look out for the places you would like to visit during your unstructured time.

There will be a couple of stops for photographs.

Tour ends in Covent Garden.

Lunch at leisure.

This afternoon you may have time to try out another of the audio walks.

Meet up with your motor coach, at the same point you disembarked before lunch, and travel to Northumberland Avenue, adjacent to the Golden Jubilee Bridge, the starting point for the South Bank Stroll.

You will enjoy a walk along the south bank of the River Thames. Highlights will be the Royal Festival Hall, the Tate Modern, Millennium Bridge, Globe Theatre, Southwark Cathedral and Borough Market.





Meet up with your motor coach at a pre-arranged location and travel back to your hotel.

Dinner will be served in a private room in your hotel.

Evening at leisure.

## DAY 4

Breakfast is served.

Meet your Blue Badge guide and board your motor coach for today's tour.

Today you will experience the delights of the county of Berkshire with a visit to Windsor.

This beautiful historic country town is renowned for its cobbled lanes and narrow passages. At the heart of the town is the castle which for over 900 years has been residence and fortress for the British monarch.

Join your guide for a walk of the town that will end at the entrance to the castle. Enter and enjoy a self-guided audio tour of the wonderful Royal Apartments, followed by a visit inside St. George's Chapel and a walk of the castle walls.

Lunch at leisure.

You will have some free time to discover the town and the fantastic shops for yourself.

Time to leave Windsor.

The tour will end at Tottenham Court Road, the starting point for the audio

tour 'London, Rock & Roll Capital of the World'! If rock music is your thing, then no other city in the world has such a rich rock and roll history as London. All the greats have performed here, from Hendrix to the Stones, from the Beatles to Elton John. A highlight will be the sight of Abbey Road studios and the crossing used by the Beatles for the iconic picture on their album cover for Abbey Road.

This evening you will have the option as a group of dining together in a restaurant environment, using one or more themed restaurant brands that are available in London. Options include private dining rooms in a public house or 'pub', European style brands such as an Italian or French or an Ethnic establishment such as Chinese or Indian. Alternatively, you will be given a dining out card with a pre-paid value that may be used in certain restaurant brands to pay for your dinner in chaperone groups.

Evening at leisure.

Your coach will be available to you all evening, so you may return to your hotel at a time of your choosing.

#### DAY 5

Breakfast is served.

Meet your Blue Badge guide and board your motor coach for today's tour.

Today you will experience either the delights of the county of Oxfordshire, with a visit to the city of Oxford, or the













delights of Hampton in southwest London with a visit to Hampton Court Palace.

Arrive in Oxford, known as the 'city of dreaming spires'. The university buildings and the forty colleges dominate the centre of the city. Your guide will take you on a walk of the most famous streets and will include entrance to Christ Church College.

Arrive at Hampton Court Palace, which lies just 20 miles upstream of Westminster on the River Thames. This morning your guide will take you on a tour of the spectacular palace, which dates from 1514 and was the favourite home of King Henry VIII, he of the 6 wives. Your visit includes a view of his state apartments and the Tudor kitchens. The house was expanded in the late 17th century by London's most famous architect, Sir Christopher Wren and so there is much to see as you stroll around the six acres of magnificent buildings.

Lunch at leisure.

There will be some free time this afternoon for you to explore for yourselves.

Meet up with your motor coach and return to London.

The rest of this afternoon is unstructured and an ideal opportunity to visit some more of London's most popular attractions and to do some shopping.

To discover what London has to offer, visit our bespoke London Google Map via the LNYDP desktop or mobile sites. The map highlights all our favourite sites and plenty of hidden gems for those who want the true London experience.

There are eight categories to search, attractions, shopping, evening entertainment, markets,





LNYDP team recommendations, restaurants, pubs and great views of London.

Simply visit https://lnydp.com/parade/to access the map.

Don't miss the British Museum and the National Gallery, they're free! Although you must pay, a visit inside St. Paul's Cathedral is a must.

Remember you will need to change your money for those important purchases!

The most famous department stores are Harrods (Knightsbridge), Liberty (Regent Street) and Selfridges (Oxford Street), although there are many more wonderful shops to choose from on Bond Street and Covent Garden.

The most popular places to hang out are Piccadilly Circus, Leicester Square, Covent Garden, the Hard Rock Café (Hyde Park Corner) and Planet Hollywood (Haymarket).

Return to your hotel by motor coach.

Dinner will be served in a private room in your hotel.

Join fellow participants in a private room for a specially arranged New Year's Eve party. Complimentary soft drinks will be available.

Later in the evening you will be served half a pizza per person in an adjacent room to the party.

The music will play until midnight when, after a brief celebration, it will be time to get some sleep before your big day.

#### DAY 6

Breakfast is served.

For all supporters, this morning is free for independent sightseeing and shopping. Lunch at leisure. If you have purchased a grandstand seat, please make your own way there, you will find directions and the location of your grandstand on the ticket. Please remain in your seat throughout and support all the wonderful bands and acts that make up this spectacular parade.

All band members will collect their instrument and congregate in the lobby in parade uniform in preparation for departure this morning.

Depart by motor coach to the assembly area in Berkeley Square.

On arrival, please leave instrument boxes and personal items on the coach as the same vehicle will pick you up at the end of the day.

The team of stewards will have clearly marked where you need to line up.

Your tour assistant will lead you to the location of your official group photograph.

Depending on your position in the parade, you may be waiting here for around two hours. There will be the opportunity to warm up before you march off.

Toilet and first aid facilities are available.

We have arranged for you to have an excellent sack lunch to eat in the assembly area.













Warm up's will be collected before the Parade starts and delivered back to your hotel this evening.

Midday. London's New Year's Day Parade will begin.

At exactly midday the parade starts and you will march two miles down the most spectacular route in the world, before an expected audience of half a million people and many more watching the live satellite broadcast.

As you reach the end of Whitehall, you will line up for the waiting cameras that will be beaming your performance around the world. Tell your friends at home to look out for you and don't forget to remind them about the time difference!

Enjoy this unique experience!

At Parliament Square your dedicated coaches will be on hand to take you back to your hotel.

This evening you will have the option as a group of dining together in a restaurant environment, using one or more themed restaurant brands that are available in London. Options include private dining rooms in a public house or 'pub', European style brands such as an Italian or French or an Ethnic establishment such as Chinese or Indian. Alternatively, you will be given a dining out card with a pre-paid value that may be used in certain restaurant brands to pay for your dinner in chaperone groups.

Evening at leisure.

Return to your hotel by motor coach.





## DAY 7

Breakfast is served.

Meet your Blue Badge guide and board your motor coach for today's tour.

Depart for Westminster Pier.

Board a Thames River boat for a 30 minute cruise along the river, both upstream passing the Palace of Westminster and downstream passing the London Eye. Your guide will provide an historical commentary.

You will disembark at the Tower of London Pier, from where it is a short walk with your Blue Badge Guide up to the Tower of London, where you will begin your visit.

The ancient stones reverberate with dark secrets, priceless jewels glint in fortified vaults and ravens strut the grounds. The Tower of London, founded by William the Conqueror in 1066, holds some of the most remarkable stories from across the centuries. Despite a grim reputation as a place of torture and death, this powerful and enduring fortress has been enjoyed as a royal palace, served as an armoury and for several years even housed a zoo!

Gaze up at the massive White Tower, tiptoe through a kings medieval bedchamber and marvel at the priceless Crown Jewels. The famous Yeoman Warders have bloody tales to tell; stand where heads rolled and prisoners wept.

The Tower held many famous prisoners from the highest levels of society; some

in astonishing comfort and others less so. Visit the places of their confinement and read the graffiti left by prisoners from over 500 years ago.

Lunch at leisure.

Re-join your coach and travel back in to the West End, finishing in Parliament Square.

It is a short walk to the group entrance of Westminster Abbey. Once inside, switch on your LNYDP audio player and choose the tour of the abbey, taking you to all parts and bringing the history and pomp and ceremony of this unique building alive.

The abbey was founded by Benedictine monks during the middle of the tenth century, but the current building was started by King Henry III in 1245 and is one of the most important Gothic buildings in the country. Westminster Abbey has witnessed thirty nine royal coronations, with the most recent on 2 June 1953 for her Maiesty Queen Elizabeth II. Over 3,300 people have been buried or commemorated at Westminster Abbey, seventeen are British monarchs including King Henry V and all the Tudors except for Henry VIII. as well as famous luminaries such as Isaac Newton and Charles Dickens. There have also been seventeen royal weddings, the most recent on 29 April 2011 between Prince William of Wales and Catherine Middleton, now Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

The rest of the afternoon is free for independent sightseeing and shopping.













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Evening at leisure.

Return to your hotel by motor coach.

## DAY 8

Breakfast is served.

Please ensure that you bring your own luggage down to reception in preparation for boarding your coach to the airport.

Depart for Heathrow airport to check in for your flight back to the US.

Lunch and a snack will be served on-board your flight.

We wish you a safe journey home and hope very much that we will see you again in our wonderful capital city!