



LONDON  
INTERNATIONAL  
CHORAL  
FESTIVAL

**YOUTH  
MUSIC**  
OF THE WORLD



Performance Travel Ltd



LONDON INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL  
Sample Itinerary

# SAMPLE ITINERARY



## HILTON LONDON KENSINGTON

179-199 Holland Park Avenue  
London W11 4UL

☎ 020 7603 3355

🚇 Central Line

Lines from this station: Shepherd's Bush,  
Holland Park

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🚓 Shepherd's Bush Police Station  
252 Uxbridge Road, W12 7JA

🚇 Shepherd's Bush Market

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🏥 Charing Cross Hospital  
Fulham Palace Road, W6 8RF

🚇 Hammersmith

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🏪 Hillcrest Pharmacy  
106 Holland Park Avenue, W11 4UA

🚇 Holland Park

## American Embassy

33 Nine Elms Lane, SW11 7US

🚇 Vauxhall

☎ 020 7499 9000

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Dial 999 for emergency services (from all UK  
landlines)

Dial 112 for emergency services (from all cell  
phones)

Dial 101 for non-emergency (Police -  
reporting thefts etc)

Dial 111 non-emergency (Medical advice 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 LICF meet & greet team in your terminal, who will show you to your coach(s).

You will be taken by motor coach to your hotel.

Your tour assistant will meet you at your hotel. They will have checked in the night before so will be already working with the management to get you roomed as soon as possible.

Check-in time is at 4.00pm, so 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 LICF 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, but it also has maps and directions for your walking tours as well as a useful information section. Check out the apps!
- ✦ An LICF wallet containing your own Visitor Oyster Card, which allows you to travel on London's underground and bus network.



- ✦ Also, your 'Ticket Restaurant' card that you will be using to purchase three of your dinners this week. You will need to activate your card before you use it. More information on how to obtain your pin number will be provided.
- ✦ A fold out street map of London with an underground section to help you plan your activities this week.

Time permitting, this afternoon you will undertake the first of your audio walks, the Parade Route. We will have already sent you the files for each of the three walks included in your programme. These will have been loaded on to your personal cell phone or mobile device.

At the earliest opportunity, make your way to your nearest underground station and board the train to Green Park station.

As you emerge you will be adjacent to the Ritz Hotel. Walk down Berkeley Street to Berkeley Square, the assembly area for LNYDP and the start of your walk.

Follow the instructions in your itinerary book, while at the same time playing the audio files on your mobile device.

The audio tour 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.

Return by underground to your hotel.

If you wish to have a rehearsal in your hotel today or at any other time during the week, you will have had to make arrangements through our office in advance so that it can be included in your itinerary.

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



The rest of this evening is free for you to acclimatise to London time.

We recommend that you do not go to bed before 9.30pm, so that everyone's body clock is reset before the morning.

### DAY 3

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

Breakfast is served.

Join your Blue Badge guide and board your coach.

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 on the South Bank.

Lunch at leisure.

The choir will make their way to St. John's, Waterloo, for a rehearsal for their performance this afternoon.

Our professional stage management team will be on hand to walk you through your rehearsal.

The supporters will take their seats.

St John the Evangelist, Waterloo, was constructed 1822-24 to designs by Francis Bedford and built over swampy ground close to the Thames. It was one of 612 Commissioners' Churches intended for a rapidly growing



urban population and is the largest of four in Lambeth, all in the Greek Revival style. Always popular, the census of 1851 records congregations of 736 in the morning and 719 in the evening. At the height of the Blitz in December 1940, a firebomb fell through the roof, destroying the nave. The crypt was being used as a bomb shelter and proved its worth: 150 people were shocked but unharmed. In 1951, the church was restored by architect Thomas Ford and reopened at the official church of the Festival of Britain. It was a focus for the Festival and has remained a place of encounter between the arts, society and faith ever since. In July 2021, St John's benefited from a £5 million restoration project.

The choral concert will begin.

Concert ends.

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

Walk to Embankment Station and make your way 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, which has played an integral part in the history of London. Highlights will be the Royal Festival Hall, the Tate Modern, Millennium Bridge, Globe Theatre, Southwark Cathedral and Borough Market.

You may also have time to discover what else London has to offer. Visit our bespoke London Google Map via the LNYDP desktop or mobile sites. The map highlights all of 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, restaurant brands and great views of London.

Simply go to <https://lnydp.com/overseas-participants/> to access the map.





Don't miss the British Museum and the National Gallery, they're free! Although you have to pay, a visit inside St. Paul's Cathedral or Westminster Abbey are a must.

Dinner at leisure this evening using the 'Ticket Restaurant' card provided.

Your card will be credited with £60 to spend on three dinners this week, so £20 per meal. Just order from the menu and pay as you would with a contactless credit card. If you spend less than £20 you can use the credit another evening. If you spend more, pay the difference by cash for the amount you owe.

The card may be used in any full service or fast-food restaurant, as well as most coffee and sandwich shops.

Evening at leisure.

Return to your hotel by underground.

## DAY 4

Breakfast is served.

Join your Blue Badge guide and board your coach.

This morning we will EITHER treat you to a tour of Hampton Court which lies just 20 miles upstream of Westminster on the River Thames, OR you will experience the delights of the county of Oxfordshire with a visit to the City of Oxford.

Arrive at Hampton Court.

This spectacular palace 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. Up to 800 courtiers could accompany Henry VIII, all needed to be fed. So, the king enlarged the existing Great Kitchen and it became an efficient food factory, serving 1600 meals a day.

Lunch at leisure.





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.

The beautiful gardens in their current form were largely created by William and Mary from 1689 and feature the Great Fountain Garden, the Privy Garden and the Long Water, created by Charles II around 1660. The Maze was created at the end of the 17th century.

Arrive in Oxford.

Known as the 'city of dreaming spires', the university buildings and the 39 colleges dominate the centre of the city.

Your guide will take you on a walk in the centre with views of Radcliffe Square, Old Schools Quadrangle (1613), the Radcliffe Camera (1737, a rotunda that originally housed the Radcliffe Library), the Sheldonian Theatre (1664, Sir Christopher Wren's second major building), the Ashmolean Museum (1683, the oldest museum in England) and the Bridge of Sighs (a bridge that connects two parts of Hertford College that looks very much like the famous bridge in Venice).

A highlight of the day will be a timed visit to Christ Church College. Founded in 1546 by King Henry VIII, Christ Church is amongst the largest and wealthiest at the University of Oxford, with an endowment of £596m and student body of 650. Its grounds contain a number of architecturally significant buildings including Tom Tower, designed by Sir Christopher Wren, Tom Quad, the largest quadrangle in Oxford and the Great Dining Hall, which have all featured in films such as the Harry Potter series and The Golden Compass. The medieval chapel, with the shrine of St Frideswide and its medieval and modern stained glass windows, is a unique joint foundation with Oxford Cathedral and is home to the world famous Oxford Cathedral Choir.





The college's alumni include 15 British and international prime ministers. Other notable alumni include King Edward VII, William Penn, seventeen archbishops, Lewis Carroll (author of Alice in Wonderland), philosopher John Locke, and scientist Robert Hooke. Albert Einstein is also associated with the college.

Lunch at leisure.

Time permitting you may wish to visit the Ashmolean, widely recognised as the first modern museum in the world.

Pedestrian-friendly Cornmarket Street is Oxford's busiest shopping street. Along with its many big-brand shops, it's also home to the historic Golden Cross arcade and the Covered Market (1774). Look out for shops that sell the ubiquitous Oxford University t-shirts and sweatshirts.

Re-join your coach and return to London.

Dinner at leisure, using the 'Ticket Restaurant' card provided. Once again you have £20.00 to spend at a restaurant of your choice this evening.

Evening at leisure.

Return to your hotel by underground.

## DAY 5

Breakfast is served.

Join your Blue Badge guide and board your coach.

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.

On arrival, your guide will take you in to the town centre and will accompany you on a walk that will finish at the entrance to the castle.





A highlight of the day will be a timed visit to Windsor Castle, where you will enjoy a self-guided audio tour of the wonderful Royal Apartments, followed by a walk of the castle walls.

Take in the splendour of St George's Chapel, one of the finest examples of Gothic architecture and one of the most beautiful ecclesiastical buildings in England.

It is the burial place of 11 monarchs including Queen Elizabeth II, Henry VIII and Charles I and the setting for many royal weddings, including that of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle.

Visit the King George VI Memorial Chapel off the North Quire aisle, where Queen Elizabeth II, The Duke of Edinburgh, King George VI, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret are all interred.

Lunch at leisure.

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

Time to leave Windsor.

Your tour will finish at the Westminster Cathedral Choir School, on Ambrosden Avenue, where you take part in the London International Choral Festival rehearsal, in preparation for the Gala Concert.

Rehearsal begins.

Rehearsal ends. Return by coach to your hotel.

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

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

Later in the evening, half a pizza per person will be served 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 stand on the ticket. Please remain in your seat throughout and support all of the wonderful bands and acts that make up this spectacular parade.

All balloon handlers will congregate in the lobby in parade uniform in preparation for departure this morning.

Board the waiting coach.

Depart to the assembly area in Berkeley Square. For security reasons on the route, you will be required to wear the LNYDP wrist band provided.

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

Walk to Stratton Street, where the balloons are being inflated.

Depending on your position in the parade, you may be waiting here for as long as two hours.

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.

**LNYDP 2024.** The 38th running of 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 group 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 coach will be on hand to take you back to your hotel.

The choir members and staff will depart for Westminster Cathedral Choir School, where you take part in the London International Choral Festival rehearsal, in preparation for the Gala Concert.

Choir rehearsal begins.

Rehearsal ends.

Dinner at leisure, using the 'Ticket Restaurant' card provided. Once again you have £20.00 to spend at a restaurant of your choice this evening.

Evening at leisure.

Return to your hotel by underground.



## DAY 7

Breakfast is served.

Meet your Blue Badge guide and board your coach for this morning's tour.

Depart for Westminster Pier.

Board a Thames River boat for a 30 minute cruise, as far upstream as Southwark Bridge, passing the Palace of Westminster and the London Eye, and as far downstream as Tower Bridge. Your guides will provide historical commentary.

Arrive at Tower Gateway Pier and disembark. It is only a short distance to walk to the Tower of London for a visit.

Your Blue Badge guide will join you for a tour of the Tower.





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 a number of years even housed a zoo!

Gaze up at the massive White Tower, tiptoe through a king's medieval bedchamber and marvel at the priceless Crown Jewels. There are 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.

At the end of your visit, re-join your coach and journey back into the West End.

Lunch at leisure.

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 in Covent Garden.

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

Return to your hotel by underground.

The choir will depart by coach for a dress rehearsal at St. John's, Smith Square, in preparation for your concert this evening.

The choral rehearsal begins.

You will be joined by members of the Young Musicians Symphony Orchestra for the last part of your rehearsal.





Rehearsal ends. Board your coach to return to your hotel.

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

The whole group will depart for St. John's, Smith Square, the venue for your performance at this evening's 'London International Choral Festival Gala Concert'.

St. John's, in the heart of Westminster, is one of London's major concert venues and favourite historic buildings, valued for its superb acoustics.

Built in 1728, and restored after damage in the Second World War, St. John's is one of the finest examples of English Baroque architecture and is considered a masterpiece of this style. St. John's has been dubbed 'Queen Anne's Footstool' due to a legend that the architect, Thomas Archer, consulted Queen Anne on the design of the new church. In reply, the monarch petulantly kicked over her footstool and snapped 'like that!' Thus, the four towers are said to give the building the semblance of an upturned footstool.

Take your seats.

The London International Choral Festival Gala Concert begins.

Your coach will be on hand to take you back to your hotel.

Time to pack for your departure tomorrow.



## DAY 8

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

Breakfast is served.

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

Our meet & greet team will once again be on hand to assist you with the check-in.

Flights may be multi sectored.

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

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

