GO AHEAD TOURS



A Week in London

8 days | 11 days with Edinburgh extension

London might move fast, but the city rewards those who take a beat. You'll do exactly that on this immersive itinerary: Your Tour Director will introduce you to timeless sights like St. Paul's Cathedral, while local guides will take you to corners you might otherwise miss. (After an included tasting at Borough Market, you'll wonder how you've never visited before.) Add included visits to the Tower of London and Globe Theatre—along with plenty of free time and an optional extension in Edinburgh—and you'll sync up to the rhythm of the United Kingdom's heart.



Your tour package includes

6 nights in a well-located hotel
6 breakfasts and 2 dinners served with beer or wine
2 food tastings, including the finery of a traditional afternoon tea
1 expert Tour Director, your guide to the city's history and highlights
3 sightseeing tours, spanning icons from the Tower of London to the Globe Theatre
Private deluxe motor coach to shuttle you between sightseeing stops

Included highlights

Chatting with your host in the shadow of the Tower of London
Sipping afternoon tea and sharing finger foods at a local brasserie
Imagining the debuts of Shakespeare's masterworks in the reconstructed Globe Theatre
Navigating the bustle of Borough Market (and delighting in an included tasting)

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 1.5 hours daily across mostly flat terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with few hills or stairs.

Group size

12–28

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8 days | 11 days with Edinburgh extension

Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day
Board your overnight flight to London today.

London → 6 nights

Day 2: Arrival in London
Included meals: welcome dinner
Welcome to England! After touching down, transfer to your hotel and unwind. Later in the evening, meet up with your Tour Director and fellow travelers and get to know one another over a welcome dinner, served with beer or wine.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of London & afternoon tea
Included meals: breakfast, tasting
The capital of England packs more than 2,000 years of history into its 607-square-mile footprint—and all of it traces back to the City of London. Today's metropolis sprang from this tiny central district, and this morning, a local guide will introduce you to some of its most compelling sights.

- Stop at St. Paul's Cathedral for photos. Sat atop Ludgate Hill, this baroque Anglican church dates to the 17th century and has hosted state funerals and royal jubilees over the years.
- Continue to the infamous Tower of London—once a palace and prison, now home to the Crown Jewels—and stop to meet a Yeoman Warder. Instantly recognizable by their blue-and-red uniforms, these ceremonial guards are the traditional protectors of the Tower of London.
- Bid farewell to your yeoman warder and follow your local guide on a tour of the tower, diving deeper into its complicated past. (Did you know that it once doubled as the Royal Menagerie, holding lions, a polar bear, and other animals?)

Sightseeing complete, head for the posh, pedestrianized streets of Covent Garden, the shopping and entertainment hub of London's West End. Your destination: a brasserie, where you'll be treated to a traditional afternoon tea. Share some conversation as you tuck into finger sandwiches, scones, and other bite-sized goodies, then wash it all down with a cuppa before returning to your hotel.

Day 4: ?? Churchill War Rooms or sightseeing tour of Soho & Covent Garden
Included meals: breakfast
Start today on your terms, whether that means sleeping in, enjoying breakfast at your hotel, or striking out in search of a full English. (Sausage and eggs, tomatoes and mushrooms, black pudding and toast—it'll power you through the day!)
?? Then, fill your afternoon with one of two included experiences:

- Best for history buffs: Churchill War Rooms. Descend into the subterranean bunkers that served as Britain's nerve center during World War II.
- Best for local explorers: Soho & Covent Garden. Follow a local guide through two of London's liveliest districts, capping your stroll with an included pint at a classic pub.

Not ready to head back to your hotel? Your Tour Director's got the tip for finding tickets to shows in the West End, London's counterpart to Broadway.
Please note: Your Tour Director will discuss show options and how to buy tickets before departure via our mobile app. It will be the responsibility of travelers to purchase tickets and travel to and from the West End for the shows. Performances may occur on other evenings during tour. Additionally, choose your experience gives you the freedom to personalize your city experience by selecting one guided sightseeing activity from two available options—both included in your tour price. Both activities occur simultaneously, so you will need to choose just one. You can make your selection at the time of booking or any time up to 30 days before your tour departure. We encourage you to choose early, as some activities have limited availability and fill up on a first-come, first-served basis—your spot is not guaranteed until you've enrolled.
+ ??Choose Your Experience: Churchill War Rooms
+ ??Choose Your Experience: Soho & Covent Garden

Day 5: Free day in London
Included meals: breakfast
For your free day in London, consider adding the excursion to Stonehenge and Salisbury to your itinerary. (Between those mysterious monoliths and Salisbury Cathedral's copy of the Magna Carta, it's a monumental way to spend a few hours.) If you'd rather explore on your own, check out a few of London's excellent museums. Some of our favorites: the traditional exhibits of the British Museum in the Bloomsbury district, and the more interactive offerings of the *Cutty Sark* clipper ship in Greenwich.
+ Stonehenge & Salisbury

Day 6: Sightseeing tour of the Globe Theatre & Borough Market with tasting
Included meals: breakfast, tasting
This morning, head to the banks of the Thames and join a local guide in Southwark. Though anchored by the Shard, the Tate Modern, and other contemporary buildings, the district dates to the first century, and today's tour focuses on two historic attractions.

- Follow your guide through Shakespeare's Globe, a faithful reconstruction of the original Globe Theatre that once stood on the same spot. Here, in the early 1600s, William Shakespeare debuted some of his most enduring plays—productions like "Hamlet," "Othello," and "King Lear."
- Sit in the theater's oak-and-thatch playhouse and join an interactive lecture that dives into the Globe's history before exploring its permanent exhibitions at your own pace.
- Head to Borough Market—a roughly 1,000-year-old institution—and roam its stalls in search of the perfect bites to indulge in during an included tasting.

The rest of the day's yours to do with as you please. If all that snacking piqued your appetite, eat your way through more of Borough Market before taking the Tube—the local nickname for the London Underground—to Shoreditch, home to a thriving street food scene. Then, return to your hotel for the night, or join us on a spooky optional stroll through Whitechapel, where Jack the Ripper terrorized the city.
+ London's East End & Jack the Ripper Tour

Day 7: Free day in London & farewell dinner
Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

Can't get enough of castles and kings? Add the excursion to spend your last day on tour at Windsor Castle for a fascinating peek into royal goings-on, as well as the historic market town of Windsor. Or, enjoy a free day in London proper. The 350-acre Hyde Park is a little over a half-mile from Buckingham Palace; make the walk and roam its grassy fields, or maybe even rent a boat for a leisurely cruise on The Serpentine. Whatever you choose, come together as a group this evening for a farewell dinner, served with beer or wine.
+ Windsor Castle

Flight Home

Day 8: Departure
Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)
Transfer to the airport for your flight home or extend your trip from London to Edinburgh for a fuller taste of the United Kingdom.

+ Edinburgh extension

In Edinburgh, something charming awaits at the end of every close, or alley—and with a little guidance from your Tour Director, you'll discover plenty on this tour's extension. Pair guided sightseeing and optional excursions (whisky, anyone?) with free time in the Scottish capital; come day 12, you might just wonder how to stay in the city even longer.

Edinburgh → 3 nights

Day 8: Train to Edinburgh
Included meals: breakfast
Begin your day at King's Cross station, where you'll board a high-speed train out of London. Settle in and look out as the landscape changes from English hills to Scottish lochs (or lakes)—soon, you'll arrive in the city of Edinburgh. Then, transfer to your hotel and end your journey with some well-deserved rest.
Please note: Porterage isn't included on this train transfer. You must be comfortable lifting and carrying all luggage over steps, onto platforms, and into storage.

Day 9: Sightseeing tour of Edinburgh
Included meals: breakfast
Nestled between the rivers Almond and Esk, Edinburgh emerges from a series of hills and rocky ridges, earning it the nickname of the Athens of the North. With a local guide in the lead, get to know Scotland's capital in all its medieval beauty.

- View the elegant neoclassical and Georgian architecture of the New Town. Its ornate sandstone and granite structures, surrounding oasis-like gardens and green spaces, became a model for European urban planning in the 18th century and beyond.
- Contrast the New Town's grace with the Old Town's moody Royal Mile, which runs between Edinburgh Castle and Holyrood Palace—the official residence of British monarchs in Scotland.
- Pass the towering Sir Walter Scott monument. Paying homage to the "Ivanhoe" and "Rob Roy" scribe, it's one of the largest sculptural tributes to an author in the world.
- Ascend Castle Rock and enter Edinburgh Castle to view the Scottish Crown Jewels, fixtures at coronation ceremonies over the centuries.

If you'd like, fill your night with song and dance at an optional ceilidh (say it "KAY-lee"). (Maybe you'll be inspired to take to the dance floor yourself!) Alternatively, use your free afternoon to take a scenic walk up Arthur's Seat. Part of an extinct ancient volcano, this hill's a popular local attraction—not least for its views of Edinburgh and the Firth of Forth.
+ Scottish Ceilidh

Day 10: Free day in Edinburgh
Included meals: breakfast
Drink in Scottish heritage (in more ways than one) on today's optional excursion—a visit to the Palace of Holyroodhouse, followed by a stop at a distillery. Between a buffet of royal relics and a tasting of Scotch whisky, you'll surely leave sated.
Or, use your free afternoon in Edinburgh to wander the winding streets of the UNESCO-listed Old Town. If you're feeling adventurous, perhaps consider a spooky stroll through the tunnels that weave underneath the city—then reemerge and join your groupmates this evening for a farewell drink.
+ Palace of Holyroodhouse & Whisky Tasting

Flight Home

Day 11: Departure
Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)
Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save $10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: **https://www.goaheadtours.com/LCIG | 1-800-597-0350**

Day 4: ??Choose Your Experience: Churchill War Rooms

Visit the link above for pricing info. (2.5 hours, departs in the afternoon)

When World War II ended, the Churchill War Rooms were left untouched—maps, furniture, and more in place. Now preserved as a museum, they offer a one-of-a-kind glimpse into a pivotal moment in human history. Pick up an audio guide for a self-guided tour and listen as you walk through the Map Room, Winston Churchill's private quarters, and other spaces. (Have any questions? Ask your Tour Director!)

Please note: You should feel comfortable walking and standing for 1-2 hours on this outing. Also, your Tour Director will accompany you on this activity.

Day 4: ??Choose Your Experience: Soho & Covent Garden

Visit the link above for pricing info. (3 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Over the decades, the bordering neighborhoods of Soho and Covent Garden have evolved into culinary and cultural hotspots. And, with a guide leading the way, you'll get to know these two districts like a Londoner. Pass beloved restaurants and theaters, catching bits of local lore, before capping your outing with an included pint at a classic pub.

Please note: To enjoy this activity, you should feel comfortable walking for about 1.5 miles. Additionally, your Tour Director won't accompany you on the walk.

Day 5: Stonehenge & Salisbury

From $155.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (10 hours, departs in the morning)

After a scenic drive through gently rolling countryside, arrive at Stonehenge, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of England's most recognizable icons. Get an informative overview of its history at the visitor's center before exploring the monument. Then, head to the nearby town of Salisbury to visit its soaring Cathedral, home to one of the four surviving original copies of the Magna Carta.

Day 6: London's East End & Jack the Ripper Tour

From $79.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (2 hours, departs in the evening)

After dark, head into London's historic East End—and the Whitechapel district in particular—for a tour of its Victorian alleys. Here, more than 135 years ago, Jack the Ripper went on an infamous killing spree; as you go, your guide will fill you in on the lore and legends of these unsolved murders. You'll pass the pub where one of the first victims spent her last hours, the doorway where the Ripper's only known clue was discovered, and other key sites before returning to your coach for the ride back to your hotel.

Please note: To properly enjoy this excursion, you should feel comfortable walking about two hours (or roughly 3.5 miles) along cobblestone streets.

Day 7: Windsor Castle

From $129.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (5 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Led by a Blue Badge Guide, you'll travel to Windsor for a guided tour of the world's largest and longest-inhabited castle. Founded by William the Conqueror in 1070, Windsor has been the British Royal Family's preferred retreat for the past 900 years. Step inside the State Apartments and St. George's Chapel, where knighting ceremonies of the Most Noble Order of the Garter take place. View the exhibit of royal treasures within the castle. You'll then have time to stroll through the town of Windsor and have time to grab lunch or pop into some shops. Please note: When the Windsor Castle excursion falls on a Wednesday or during any other scheduled closure, it will be replaced by Hampton Court, moved to another day on tour, or cancelled. For Tuesday departures, the excursion will be moved or cancelled. Additionally, St. George's Chapel is closed to the public on Sundays.

Extension excursion options

Day 9: Scottish Ceilidh

From $129.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (4 hours, departs in the evening with dinner)

Enjoy a special evening of Scottish tradition as you witness an authentic ceilidh, an age-old Scottish celebration. Sit down to an included dinner and be serenaded by a band playing Scottish folk tunes while you dine. As the evening unfolds, watch as skilled dancers take to the stage to perform a captivating series of traditional dances—a foot-tapping, heart-stirring showcase of Scotland's rich cultural heritage.

Day 10: Palace of Holyroodhouse & Whisky Tasting

From $155.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (4 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Make your way down the Royal Mile to pop by the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the King's official residence in Edinburgh. This 16th-century retreat has been the Scottish home to British monarchs for more than 600 years, and during a self-guided audio tour, you'll explore every nook— from the state apartments to the throne room, portrait gallery, and gardens. Then, return to the Royal Mile and sit down for a Scotch tasting before heading back to your hotel.

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. Go Ahead Tours accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at https://www.goaheadtours.com/about/terms.