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# United Kingdom

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## Sample Tour Program

*featuring London, Salisbury, Stonehenge, Stratford-upon-Avon, York, Edinburgh, Inverness, and Glasgow*

### *day 1 – Overnight flight*

Begin your 14-day performance tour of England and Scotland, with this evening's overnight trans-Atlantic flight.

### *day 2 – London*

Arrive at London's Heathrow Airport, where your **full-time tour manager** will welcome you abroad. Sightseeing begins right away, as you transfer to the nearby college town of Eton. A **local guide** will take you on a walking tour to explore the rich community and diverse heritage, and there is time for lunch under your own arrangements; the village has many cafes and pubs to select from. This afternoon visit **Windsor Castle**, the Official Residence of His Majesty, and the oldest and largest occupied castle in the world; **audio guides** are included. Originally built in the 11<sup>th</sup> century after the Norman invasion by William the Conqueror, the Georgian early 19<sup>th</sup> century State Apartments are magnificent. St. George's Chapel was the setting for the marriage of Prince Harry and Ms. Meghan Markle in 2018, and is the burial place of many British monarchs including Henry VIII. Continue to London, the capital city of England and the United Kingdom. Settle into your centrally located accommodations. This evening **dinner** is served at a local pub.

### *day 3 – London*

**Breakfast** is served at the hotel, and each morning for the remainder of your trip. This morning join a **local guide** for a walking tour, beginning at the River Thames to see Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament, Parliament Square and Westminster Abbey (no entrances). Continue sightseeing with a stroll through St. James's Park, and finally to see Buckingham Palace in time for the Changing of the Guard. Enjoy free time for lunch before boarding the coach for a panoramic drive. There are stops along the way for photos and to experience highlights first-hand, including Hyde Park, Marble Arch, Leicester Square, Trafalgar Square and Tower Bridge. Sightseeing ends at **St. Paul's Cathedral**, with time to visit the American Chapel, and to climb to the dome and experience the whispering gallery. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure, on your own or with your tour manager, and you may wish to enjoy London's world-famous shopping. **Present an area concert this evening at a local venue custom selected for your ensemble! A warm-up rehearsal is provided prior to your performance.** **Dinner** is served at a local restaurant this evening.

### *day 4 – London*

**Breakfast** at the hotel. Explore the **Victoria and Albert Museum**, founded in 1852 and named for Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, it is the world's largest museum of decorative arts and design. Free admission provides you with the opportunity to take in their permanent collection at your leisure, with lunch opportunities at their three cafes, including the oldest museum restaurant, with its beautifully designed period rooms. Later today, join the group for a **Backstage Tour** of one of London's great theaters, such as Drury Lane, the National, or the Royal Opera House. See the

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hidden behind the curtain scenes of costume departments, scene building, and technical magic. Enjoy a family-style **dinner** in nearby Chinatown, before an included ticket to one of London's **Musical Theater Performances** in the West End; availability of show options is subject to scheduling, approximately six months in advance.

### *day 5 – Stratford-upon-Avon*

**Breakfast** at the hotel. Your journey across England continues, with a visit to the beautiful town of Salisbury. Visit the world famous 750-year old **Cathedral**, boasting the tallest spire in England. Be inspired by this spectacular building, including Europe's oldest working clock, and the best preserved of the four remaining copies of the Magna Carta. Free time is provided for lunch. Continue to nearby Stonehenge, symbolizing mystery, power, and endurance as one of Britain's greatest national icons. The building of Stonehenge began approximately 5,000 years ago, and its purpose is unclear. Some have speculated it was a temple made for the worship of ancient earth deities, and others have called it an astronomical observatory for marking significant events on the prehistoric calendar. Visit the exhibition and visitor center, and consider this wonder of the world. The day ends in Stratford-upon-Avon. Check-in to your centrally located hotel, and this evening enjoy a traditional **Carvery dinner**.

### *day 6 – Stratford-upon-Avon*

**Breakfast** at the hotel. Join a **local guide** and explore the quaint town of Stratford-upon-Avon, once home to the great Bard. Visit **Shakespeare's Birthplace**, a restored 16<sup>th</sup> century half-timbered home, and **Anne Hathaway's Cottage**. The remainder of the day is at leisure to enjoy the town and its shops. You may wish to hire a traditional punt or rowboat, and enjoy a relaxing cruise along the River Cherwell. Your tour manager will assist with activity suggestions. **Present an area concert this evening at a local venue custom selected for your ensemble! There is the opportunity to make this an exchange and joint performance with a local ensemble. A warm-up rehearsal is provided prior to your performance.** **Dinner** is served at a local restaurant.

### *day 7 – York*

**Breakfast** at the hotel. Journey north as you begin to explore farther afield within the United Kingdom and make your way to the medieval city of York. Few cities in England are as rich in history, encircled by its 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century walls, about 4 kilometers long, with four gates. One of these, Micklegate, once grimly greeted visitors coming from the south with the heads of traitors. To this day, you can walk on the footpath of the medieval walls. Founded by the Romans, York soon became England's Second City and has witnessed wars, peace agreements and prosperity throughout its 2,000 years of existence. King George VI reflected on the City's central role when he commented that, "The history of York is the history of England". Join a **local guide** for a walking tour, including the leaning half-timbered houses of the Shambles. Visit the magnificent **York Minster** with its priceless display of stained glass, and attend **Evensong**. Dinner is under your own arrangements so that you may explore York's pub culture and fascination with Indian food.

### *day 8 – Edinburgh*

**Breakfast** at the hotel. Depart England for Scotland today, with a stop along the way to visit Hadrian's ancient wall. Once considered the boundary between barbarity and civilization, you can walk along the perimeter with your tour manager, before touring the Vindolanda Roman fort. There is time for lunch under own arrangements in the small market town of Brampton. Your journey continues as you enter Stirling and the land of mighty fortresses, and visit the impressive **Stirling Castle** situated on the River Forth and rising abruptly from the flat plains. Known as the key to Scotland, today you can explore the turreted gatehouse, the Great Hall, and the Renaissance Chapel Royal. Your day ends in the royal city of Edinburgh. Check-in to your hotel, and enjoy **dinner** at a local restaurant.

### *day 9 – Edinburgh*

**Breakfast** at the hotel. The morning begins with a walking tour lead by a **local guide**. Explore the UNESCO World Heritage "Old Town" in depth, and walk along the Royal Mile to Holyrood House. There is also time to tour the 18<sup>th</sup> century Georgian "New Town". Additional highlights include the palace of Holyrood and the City Observatory. Scheduled for this afternoon is free time for lunch and further exploration under your own arrangements. **Present an area concert this evening at a local venue custom selected for your ensemble! A warm-up rehearsal is provided prior to your performance.** **Dinner** is served at a local restaurant this evening.

## day 10 – Inverness

**Breakfast** at the hotel. Join your tour manager for a full-day Scottish Highlands excursion. Begin sightseeing with a visit and audio-guided tour of **Doune Castle**, built as the home of Regent Albany, “Scotland’s uncrowned king”, and featured as a film location in Monty Python and the Holy Grail, Game of Thrones, and Outlander. Continue to Loch Ness, together with a **cruise** of the lake to take in local beauty, and maybe even a famous monster. You will also visit **Urquhart Castle** for a guided tour, the most famous historic landmark on the shores of Loch Ness and dating back to the 6<sup>th</sup> century. **Lunch** is included today, instead of dinner. The day ends in the unofficial capital of the Highlands, the city of Inverness. Check-in to your centrally located hotel. Your tour manager will lead an informal stroll to introduce the neighborhood, and assist with suggestions for local restaurants and evening activities.

## day 11 – Inverness

**Breakfast** at the hotel. Inverness is a royal burgh and seaport at the north end of Great Glen on both sides of the Ness River. Today enjoy a morning sightseeing tour of historic Inverness with a **local guide**, featuring **Inverness Cathedral**. It was the first new cathedral to be completed in Great Britain after the Reformation. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure to relax and take in the scenic beauty. **Present an area concert this evening at a local venue custom selected for your ensemble! There is the opportunity to make this an exchange and joint performance with a local ensemble. A warm-up rehearsal is provided prior to your performance.** **Dinner** is served at a local pub.

## day 12 – Glasgow

**Breakfast** at the hotel. Journey to Glasgow today, your home for the remainder of the tour. Along the way, there is the opportunity for a **hike with local guide** into the Glencoe area, to enjoy some of the finest natural beauty in the country, and the setting for myth, misdeed, and magnificence. **Lunch** is provided today, instead of dinner, and there is a visit to a local **Smokehouse** for a tour and salmon tasting. Arrive in Glasgow this evening and check-in to your centrally located hotel. Dinner is under your own arrangements.

## day 13 – Glasgow

**Breakfast** at the hotel. Join a **local guide** this morning for a walking tour of Glasgow, for an introduction to this unique gem—highlighting its distinctive 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century architecture, including the Glasgow Central Station, the Royal Exchange, and Glasgow City Chambers. See St Mungo's Museum, Provencal Lordship, Glasgow Green, St Andrew's in the Square Church and the Glasgow Police Museum. The city is well known for its museums, and a visit to the city would not be complete without entrance to the **Burrell Collection**, to experience the diversity and pure magnificence of some of the over 9000 exhibits. Enjoy free time to explore under your own arrangements. **Present an area concert finale this evening at a local venue custom selected for your ensemble! A warm-up rehearsal is provided prior to your performance.** Celebrate the last night of your performance tour with a special **dinner finale** at a local restaurant.

## day 14 – Departure

A final **breakfast** is served at the hotel before transferring to the airport for your return flights home. Your tour manager will assist with airport check-in, and there is time for one last goodbye!

