



London Excursion Guide

Planning your Itinerary

We want to make organising your trip as simple as possible. This guide contains information to help you plan your trip, but if you have any questions, please contact your Tour Organiser who will be happy to help.

When completing your itinerary planner, please consider the travel time to and from the venue, especially in or around cities, particularly during rush hour or on public holidays. Public holidays can also mean longer queues at attractions and some attractions may be closed.

Coach drivers' hours are regulated by law. The rules are complex but there are a few basic principles you can use to help ensure the smooth running of your trip;

- Drivers can drive for up to nine hours per day
- Drivers must have a 45-minute break after 4½ hours' driving
- Drivers can work for 13 hours per day (this includes time spent stationary whilst the group are visiting an attraction)

If your plans conflict with drivers' hours regulations, we will let you know so that we can agree a suitable alternative.

Risk Assessments

In line with the recommendations of the School Travel Forum and BAPA, and in order to identify potential hazards, PGL monitors feedback from PGL staff and groups regarding the attractions included in this guide. We would stress that risk assessments can only be undertaken by the party leader who is familiar with the specific requirements of the participants and we encourage you to make preview visits for this reason. The majority of attractions/sites visited by schools on PGL tours are open to the public. They are responsible for the health and safety of all their visitors including groups travelling with PGL. We have no liability for the standard of their provision, and schools visit these attractions/sites at their own risk.

Excursions

This guide contains details of the most popular visits and excursions in Central London. They are grouped into two categories; Central London Attractions and Central London Museums & Galleries. Many attractions offer educational programmes or curriculum-based activities, so speak to your PGL Tour Organiser for further information or visit the attraction's website. Individual venues will be able to advise you on what is most relevant to your particular needs and we will forward details of their educational material to you in your final information pack.

Unless otherwise stated, guides and entrance fees to museums, galleries and places of interest etc. are not included in the cost of your tour. All entrance fees must be paid locally by the group.

Attractions

The London Eye, South East London - Offering a unique perspective of London's landmarks, each capsule accommodates up to 25 people. Teaching resources have been designed to support learning for a variety of ages and subjects. For further information visit their website.

www.londoneye.com

Duration: 1 hour (30-minute flight)



Changing of the Guard, Buckingham Palace, Central London - Official London residence of the Queen. Changing of the Guard takes place daily at 11:15-12:00 in May, June and July. For the rest of the year it takes place on alternate days.

www.changing-the-guard.com

Duration: 1 hour

St Paul's Cathedral, Central London - The present cathedral, begun in 1675 and completed in 1711, was designed by Sir Christopher Wren. Climb the 542 steps to the Golden Gallery giving magnificent views of London.

www.stpauls.co.uk

Duration: 2 hours including galleries

Westminster Abbey, South West London - The coronation place of most sovereigns since 1066, in 2011 it was also the wedding venue of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. Kings and Queens are buried here and there are memorials to many historical figures.

www.westminster-abbey.org

Duration: 1 hour minimum

The Tower of London, Central London - Historically the most important building in England. Visit the Bloody Tower and see the Crown Jewels in the new 10million pound Jewel House.

www.tower-of-london.com

Duration: 1-3 hours

Madame Tussauds, North West London - The famous waxworks museum gives you the opportunity to come face-to-face with some of the world's most famous people. There is a programme of activities and resource packs to support learning.

www.madametussauds.com

Duration: 2-3 hours

River Cruises, Central London - Offering a unique perspective of the city, the most popular cruises are between Westminster and Tower Pier (30 mins each way) or a circular cruise from Westminster (50 mins).

www.londonrivercruises.com

Duration: 30/40 mins single, 75 mins return

London Zoo, North West London - One of the world's most famous zoos first opened its gates in 1827, and since that time has been committed to conservation, housing over 12,000 species of animals.

www.zsl.org

Duration: 2½ hours

Theatre Visits - We can reserve tickets for many London shows (subject to availability). If you would like to see a specific show or discuss your options, please indicate this on your itinerary planner or contact your Reservations Advisor.

Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, East London - Spend some time in this beautiful part of London, purpose built for London 2012 in the heart of London's East End.

Guided Tours – See the city with a qualified 'Blue Badge Guide' who can tailor your tour to include the things you most want to see. Contact your PGL Tour Organiser for further information.



Museums & Galleries

Natural History Museum, South West London - Explore the variety and complexity of the natural world in the interactive exhibitions detailing different aspects of life and earth sciences.

www.nhm.ac.uk

Duration: Allow 2 – 4 hours

Science Museum, South West London - Extensive collections offer an exciting insight into the history and workings of science. As well as the galleries available on a 'general visit' there are 'hands-on' spaces available for advance booking.

www.sciencemuseum.org.uk

Duration: Dependent upon activities

Victoria & Albert Museum, South West London - The National Museum of Art and Design, provides an insight into centuries of ceramics, furniture, jewellery, metalwork, textiles and dress in Europe, the Far East and South Asia. An extensive education programme is available.

www.vam.ac.uk

Duration: Allow 3 hours

Tate Britain, South West London - Home to the national collection of British art from the time of Henry VIII to the present day. An extensive education programme is available.

www.tate.org.uk

Duration: With guide 1 – 1½ hours, without guide 3 hours

Tate Modern, South East London - Britain's national museum of modern art providing many opportunities to explore visual culture and ideas. An extensive education programme is available.

www.tate.org.uk

Duration: With guide 1 – 1½ hours, without guide 3 hours

National Gallery, Central London - Over 2,200 paintings dating from the 13th to early 20th centuries. An extensive education programme and tours are available.

www.nationalgallery.org.uk

Duration: Allow 1 – 2 hours

Other Activities - There is so much to see and do in London that it is not possible to include everything here. However please feel free to speak to your PGL Tour Organiser who will be able to suggest other options to fit your itinerary and objectives.

Alternatively, for further information about London and other attractions visit www.visitlondon.com

Pricing Information

Contact your PGL Tour Organiser for the most up-to-date prices. Admission costs may vary depending on the size and type of group and the type of visit required. Some venues require a non-refundable payment at the time of booking. Due to restrictions at some attractions, PGL may not be able to book all of your visits on your behalf and your Tour Organiser will advise you if this is the case.