

# American Celebration of Music in England

Tour #1 (6 nights/8 days)

## Day 1

Depart via scheduled air service to London, England

## Day 2

**London / Windsor (D)**

Arrive in London

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting chartered motorcoach

Excursion to Windsor for a tour of Windsor Castle, built 900 years ago by William the Conqueror to guard the western approach to London. Today, it is England's largest castle and also the largest inhabited stronghold in the world. Highlights of the visit will be St. George's Chapel and, subject to royal commitments, the State Apartments

Late afternoon hotel check-in

Welcome Dinner included, and overnight

*Established 1,250 years ago, London became an important Roman city. It was resettled by the Saxons in the fifth century, after the end of the Roman occupation. London has been scourged by the plague (1665) and was almost destroyed by the Great Fire (1666). World War II's "Blitzkrieg" tore up the city considerably. She stands today as a monument to perseverance, culture, excitement, history, and greatness*

## Day 3

**London (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

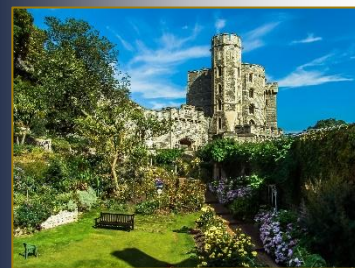
Enjoy a panoramic tour of London's highlights. See famous landmarks including Whitehall and Trafalgar Square with Nelson's Column, and Buckingham Palace, where you might see the Changing of the Guard, etc.

Lunch, on own

Take a guided cruise on the River Thames. View all the most famous sights of London while learning rich historical facts about the city and the River. As the cruise sets sail along the gentle currents of the River Thames, passengers are immediately treated to a panoramic feast of London's architectural wonders. The city's skyline unfolds, revealing a seamless blend of historic and modern structures lining the riverbanks. Tower Bridge, an unmistakable symbol of London, stands proudly with its two majestic towers and intricate bascules, creating a dramatic entrance to the cruise. The Houses of Parliament and the iconic Big Ben (now officially known as the Elizabeth Tower) also come into view, standing proudly along the river. Throughout the cruise, informative commentary or guides onboard provide fascinating insights into the history and significance of the landmarks, enhancing the cultural experience

***Performance in London as part of the American Celebration of Music in England\****

Dinner included, and overnight



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**Day 4****Stonehenge / Bristol****(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Visit Stonehenge, a world-famous archaeological wonder, is located on the Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire, England. This ancient monument is renowned for its enigmatic circle of massive standing stones, each weighing several tons, arranged in a prehistoric architectural marvel. Believed to have been constructed over multiple phases between 3000 BCE and 2000 BCE, Stonehenge has captivated the imagination of people for centuries. The primary feature is the outer ring of large sarsen stones, each standing upright and topped with lintels, creating a circular formation. Stonehenge attracts millions of visitors annually, drawing them into the enigma of its construction and purpose. The visitor center provides information about the monument's history, theories about its origin, and the broader archaeological context

Lunch, on own

***Recital in Salisbury\****

Continue to Bristol

Dinner included, and overnight

*Bristol is a city straddling the River Avon in the southwest of England with a prosperous maritime history. Its former city-centre port is now a cultural hub, the Harbourside, where the M Shed museum explores local social and industrial heritage. The harbour's 19th-century warehouses now contain restaurants, shops and cultural institutions such as contemporary art gallery The Arnolfini*

**Day 5****Bath / Bristol****(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy a visit to the Roman Baths. The pools, pipes and underfloor heating are remarkable demonstrations of the ingenuity of Roman engineering. Also visit the neighboring Abbey Church, renowned for the lofty fifteenth-century vault of its choir

Lunch, on own

***Performance in Wells as part of the American Celebration of Music in England\****

Dinner included, and overnight

*Built for pleasure and relaxation, beautiful Bath has been a wellbeing destination since Roman times. The waters are still a big draw, both at the ancient Roman Baths and the thoroughly modern Thermae Bath Spa, which houses the only natural thermal hot springs in Britain you can bathe in. Immerse yourself in Bath's remarkable collection of museums and galleries, and enjoy year-round festivals, theatre, music and sports. Bath's stunning honey-coloured Georgian architecture is straight from a Jane Austen novel - highlights include the iconic Royal Crescent and the majestic Circus*

**Day 6****Stratford / Coventry****(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Take a tour of the Shakespeare properties in Stratford. Start with the half-timbered house that is Shakespeare's Birthplace. The house itself is part museum and part shrine. Also, visit the Church of the Holy Trinity, which occupies a truly magical setting amongst some trees next to the river. Shakespeare is buried on the north side of the chancel

Lunch, on own



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Continue to Coventry with *(time permitting)* a stop at Coventry Cathedral. The Cathedral was constructed in the late 14th century and stood for centuries as one of the largest parish churches in England. During WWII, Coventry Cathedral fell victim to the brutal Nazi Blitz in November 1940, and was almost completely destroyed. Only the spire, outer wall, and the tomb of the first Bishop of the Cathedral survived the attack. The decision to “rebuild in hope, not defiance” was made the next day, and the modern cathedral was completed next to the ruins of the original Cathedral in 1962

Dinner included, and overnight

*Stratford-upon-Avon, one of the most famous towns in England, is situated on the west bank of the River Avon, in the heart of the Midlands. It dates to at least Roman times, but its appearance today is that of a small Tudor market town, with mellow, half-timbered architecture and tranquil walks beside the tree-fringed Avon. This image belies its popularity as the most visited tourist attraction outside London, with eager hordes flocking to see buildings connected to William Shakespeare or his descendants*

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## Day 7

### Oxford / London

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Take a visit to Christ Church College. With its compelling combination of majestic architecture, literary heritage and double identity as (parts of) Harry Potter’s Hogwarts, Christ Church attracts tourists galore. Among Oxford’s largest colleges – the largest if you include its meadow – and proud possessor of its most impressive quad, plus a superb art gallery and even a cathedral, it was founded in 1525 by Cardinal Wolsey. It became home to Lewis Carroll, whose excursions with the dean’s daughter gave us Alice in Wonderland  
Lunch, on own

***Performance in Oxford as part of the American Celebration of Music in England\****

Transfer to London

Farewell Dinner included, and overnight

*The famous university city of Oxford is found North West of London, on the north bank of the River Thames. Oxford University is the oldest in England, dating from around 1200. The city itself was developed in Saxon times around the 8th century nunnery, now Christ Church, and still maintains its original street plan and parts of its city walls*

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## Day 8

### Depart for home

(B)

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Transfer to the London Airport for return flight home

***\*Subject to confirmation***

***This is a very flexible itinerary.*** Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.

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