



UK

Bolney Place, Cowfold Road
 Bolney, West Sussex RH17 5QT
 Tel: 01444 810399
 info@visionsineducation.co.uk
 visionsineducation.co.uk

USA

South Business 65, Box 813
 Hollister, Missouri 65673
 Tel: 802.239.3010
 info@visions-in-education.com
 visions-in-education.com

Tour:

Lights of London (4-days / 3-nights)

Destination:

London, United Kingdom

Specialization:

Performing Arts – Dance, Drama & Musical Theatre

Availability:

Year-round

Lights of London - Sample 4-day Itinerary					
Day	Morning	Afternoon	Evening		
1	Travel to London; transfer to Hotel; Dinner, Visions Welcome & Safety Meeting				
2	Breakfast	Master Class 1 - Show-Specific	Master Class 2 - Show-Specific	Dinner	West End Theatre 1
3	Breakfast	Sightseeing Hop On/Off Tour & Thames River Cruise		Dinner	West End Theatre 2
4	Breakfast	Master Class 3 - Audition Techniques	Sightseeing / On Own	Depart London	



Specialists in Student Travel

As with all sample itineraries, please be aware that this is an “example” of a schedule and that the activities included may be variable dependent upon dates, weather, special requests and other factors. Itineraries will be confirmed prior to travel.



Visions Holiday Group Limited Registered No. 4499296.
 Registered office as above. VAT No. 784 3347 05

Day 1

Dinner (dependent upon arrival time)

London... As one of the world's top destinations, London is a bevy of English bobbies, an ocean of black umbrellas, and an unconquered continuance of more than 2,000 years of history. Now an uber-cool city, London remains history-steeped. There's enough antiquity and historic splendor around every corner... London's buildings are eye-catching milestones in the city's unique and compelling biography. There's more than enough funky innovation to put a crackle in the air, but it never drowns out London's well-preserved, centuries-old narrative. Architectural grandeur rises up all around you, ancient remains dot the City and charming pubs punctuate the Thames riverside. It's all here!



A tireless innovator of art and culture, London is a city of ideas, imagination, art and history all rolled into one. How can a 2,000-year-old settlement with such a deeply entrenched history stand at the leading edge of design, architecture, fashion, cuisine, fine art, and pop culture? - By embracing international styles, influences and people as much as its own. The city's millennial resurgence resulted from a blend of clear-eyed preservation, savvy reinvention, and bold innovation. Only here could a brash new landmark so swiftly find its place in the old cityscape; only here could the cutting-edge 'gastropub' so readily slip into local parlance and routine. Perhaps that's because behind all this novelty, the London that always was endures, unperturbed by these curious new arrivals, or just slightly bemused.

The crown jewels, Buckingham Palace, Camden Market... In London, history collides with art, fashion, food, and good British ale. Londoners are fiercely independent thinkers, so the creative milieu is naturally streaked with attitude, from theatrical innovation to contemporary art, pioneering music, writing and design. A perfect day is different for everyone: culture hounds hit the Tate Modern and the Royal Opera House. Clotheshorses will drool over Oxford Street shops. For foodies, cream tea at Harrod's or crispy fish from a proper chippy offers classic London flavor. Music and book buffs will freak over Abbey Road and the Sherlock Holmes Museum.

And while English may be the national tongue, over 300 languages shape London's linguistic soundscape. These languages also represent cultures that season the culinary aromas on London's streets, the clothing you glimpse and the music you hear. It can seem like the whole world has come to town. Museums have collections as diverse as they are magnificent, while flavors at markets range across the gourmet spectrum. London's diverse cultural dynamism makes it quite possibly the world's most international city, while being somehow intrinsically British.



Did you know?

- ✓ Most people have an impression that Big Ben is the name of the world-famous clock, or perhaps the tower that houses it. The name actually refers to the 13-ton bell, while the tower is known as St. Stephen's Tower.
- ✓ In 1870, thanks to the potato famines in Ireland, there were more Irish living in London than there were in Dublin. At that time, there were also more Catholics living in London than there were in Rome.
- ✓ The Thames is the oldest place name in Britain, and the river is a combination of four other rivers.
- ✓ The city that is presently known as London has gone through a variety of names during its history. At the time of the Roman Invasion, it was called Londinium. In Saxon times, it became known as Lundenwic. And during the kingdom of Alfred the Great, the city was known as Lundenburg.
- ✓ Her Majesty the Queen is not allowed to go into the House of Commons because she is not a commoner.
- ✓ Rumor has it that Windsor Castle is haunted by a range of ghosts, including King Henry VIII, Queen Elizabeth I, Mad King George, and Charles I.
- ✓ About sixteen percent of the UK's restaurants are in London, and there are more Michelin-rated restaurants in London than in any city except for Paris.
- ✓ Each week, the 409 escalators in the London subway cover an astonishing distance: the equivalent of several trips around the globe!
- ✓ London is highly diverse ethnically and culturally; around one in three Londoners is a foreign national. Over 300 languages are spoken in London, more than in any other city in the world – this makes London the language capital!
- ✓ The Queen's official residence, Buckingham Palace, was built in 1702... on the site of a notorious brothel!
- ✓ Harrods, London's most famous shop, once used a cobra to guard a valuable pair of sandals. They were priced at £62,000 and were covered in diamonds and sapphires.

- ✓ In England, people drive on the left side of the road...except for one road: Savoy Court in London. Here, cars are legally required to drive on the right; originally created in 1902 so that fancy folk could get straight out of their carriages into the Savoy Theatre. The law was never changed.
- ✓ Cab drivers in London are special. To become a taxi driver, they must pass 'The Knowledge Test.' Taking two to four years to study, they must memorize 25,000 streets and 20,000 landmarks.
- ✓ The London Underground (known as the Tube) is the oldest and longest metro in the world, with over 270 stations and 400 km of tracks.

Groups participating in Visions 'Lights of London' 4-day tour will generally arrive in the afternoon. Upon arrival we'll check-in to our hotel and then have our Visions Welcome & Safety Meeting. Later we'll have a great dinner and then prepare for fabulous fun! Get ready to experience London!

Please know that we are able to offer hotel classes to fit every budget. Accommodation options range from hostel-type accommodation through 4-star properties. Please let us know your preference! Below is an example of a moderate 3-star property.



Sample Hotel – Bayswater Inn London - This budget-friendly hotel is located on the edge of Notting Hill, one of London's trendiest districts. You'll be within easy walking distance of Hyde Park as well as Bayswater and Queensway stations, putting you a brisk Tube ride from the sights of central London. There are shops and places to eat nearby, and Bayswater Inn is convenient for Portobello Road Market and shopping at Knightsbridge.

Served in the dining room overlooking the garden, guests give a big 'thumbs up' to the breakfasts where you can fuel up on a traditional English platter of sausages, bacon, and eggs, or enjoy lighter options like fresh fruit and cereals. Staff are praised for their warmth and helpfulness and a concierge is available! Comfortable, basic guestrooms are kitted out with essential features like TVs, safes, and coffeemakers. You'll also find WiFi throughout the hotel.

Day 2

Breakfast & Dinner

Rise and shine London! Today is the day to kick off with Performing Arts! After breakfast at our hotel, we'll head to our first Master Class! Both Master Classes today will be show-specific to the evening theatre productions we'll be seeing.

Performing Arts Master Class 1 & 2 - Today we'll participate in Master Classes that tie into the theatre performances we'll be seeing. Master Classes offer a wide variety of options to make your trip to the theatre an enhanced learning experience. From aspiring young actors to those students visiting the theatre for the various first time, the workshops are designed to suit the needs of a variety of ages and skills. Master Classes are designed to:

- Explore the central subjects, themes and characters in the show of your choice
- Build confidence, develop strong communication skills and encourage individual thought and teamwork
- Teach professional performance skills such as acting, singing and dance

Sample Master Class options may include the ones shown below.



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Disney's The Lion King Master Class - Disney's internationally acclaimed production of The Lion King is an experience that will engage and inspire your pupils' imaginations like never before.



Education Connections: Drama & Theatre Studies, English, Dance, Performing Arts, Music, Design and Technology, Art, Citizenship

Appropriate Ages: 7 – 18 year plus

As part of the show's education program, we are delighted to bring you three fantastic workshops, targeting different age groups. For younger students, our specially designed workshop uses simple theatre techniques to explore the themes and characters in the show. Themes of family, friendship, conflict and responsibility are all focused on, making it the perfect workshop for 7-11 year olds. Our second workshop is suited to 11-16 year olds as physical theatre techniques based on artaud and laban are used to explore body isolation and energy. Your class will also be introduced to the world of balinese dance, which is a recognizable style throughout the show. For the more experienced drama and dance students, 16-18 year olds plus, we run a physical theatre Master Class. This workshop teaches performers some of the techniques used in the show to develop an acute awareness of their physicality in the creation of a physical character. In conjunction with this, you can take your pupils on a 'virtual backstage tour' with 'behind the scenes' – an innovative new educational resource from The Lion King Education program. Created exclusively for educational use, this truly unique teaching resource comprises 10 short episodes - each focusing on a different aspect of The Lion King. Episodes range from the award-winning masks and puppets, costumes and choreography, to adapting the film for the stage, themes behind the story and the African music in the show.

Wicked Master Class - Wicked, the spellbinding and spectacular hit musical, tells the untold story of the legendary witches from Frank L, Baum's The Wonderful Wizard of Oz.



Education Connections: Drama & Theatre Studies, English, Design and Technology, Art & Design, Citizenship

Appropriate Ages: 7-18 year plus

Wicked continues to entertain and inspire students of all ages. Based on the novel by Gregory Maguire that re-imagined the stories and characters in 'The Wonderful Wizard of Oz', this unforgettable musical tells the untold story of the witches of Oz, and how one came to be called 'good' and the other 'wicked'. Specially created for wicked, there are four workshops which each explore the show's central subjects, themes and characters through experiential theatre techniques.

Workshop 1: Ages 7-10 - An educational workshop exploring the subjects of identity, bullying, friendship and having belief in oneself. Using games, image theatre, storytelling and group work, your students will explore the show's central themes while learning performance skills which build confidence and self-esteem, team work and individual thought and strong communication skills.

Workshop 2: Ages 11-15 - Through interactive exercises, your students will explore the production's central themes of identity, individuality, bullying and ambition. This motivational workshop will encourage students to think independently, exploring their own hopes and dreams, and through team-work, create performance pieces. Through character development, acting and singing techniques, these lessons will be put into practice in a performance of a song from the show at the end of the workshop.

Workshop 3: Age 16+ - Ideal for advanced students of performing arts, this challenging workshop employs professional performance techniques involved with musical theatre including character development

exercises, singing, physicality and gesture, scene studies and devising tasks to explore the show's central themes and characters, reflecting your students' own fears, hopes and dreams.

Musical Theatre Master Class: Experienced students with confidence only! (Ages 16-18 year plus) - Tailored to your group's age and level of experience, this workshop gets you up and singing from the start. This is not a workshop for the inexperienced as it requires great commitment to performance with confidence – you'll learn vocal and singing skills, character movement and physicality, and create your own choreography in addition to that taught by our workshop leaders. Reference will be made to the themes within the show through text and performance, but unlike the workshops above the central focus in this workshop is on creating performance.

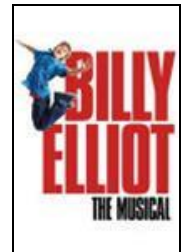
The 39 Steps Master Class - John Buchan's classic spy thriller the 39 Steps, and Alfred Hitchcock's memorable movie version of the book have been recreated for the stage in this hilarious Olivier and Tony award winning comedy.



Education Connections: Citizenship, English, History, Performing Arts
Appropriate Ages: 11 year plus

This blissfully funny show follows the incredible adventures of our handsome hero Richard Hannay, complete with stiff-upperlip, British gung-ho and pencil moustache as he encounters dastardly murders, double-crossing secret agents, and, of course, devastatingly beautiful women. Featuring just four fearless actors playing 139 roles in 100 minutes of fast-paced fun and thrilling action, this is the perfect show for your students. The workshop was specifically developed for the 39 Steps, and you will work with professional actors to learn acting and performance techniques used in actor training and in the rehearsal and creation of the 39 Steps. Specifically, the workshop will help students to devise theatre ideas through storytelling, explore character development techniques for multi-role playing, work on vocal and speech techniques to improve communication, develop physicality and movement skills and to take part in storytelling.

Billy Elliot The Musical Master Class - The award-winning musical with music by Elton John, adapted from the much-loved film, continues to wow audiences and smash box office records.



Education Connections: Dance, Drama & Theatre Studies, English, Music, Performing Arts, History, Citizenship
Appropriate Ages: 11-18 year plus

One of the most celebrated, award-winning musicals on stage today, Billy Elliot has been dazzling London's West End since 2005, and has gone on to captivate audiences around the world. Billy Elliot The Musical follows the inspirational journey of one boy with an incredible talent who pursues his dreams and changes his life forever. Set in 1984/'85, during one of the most damaging strikes in Britain's history, Billy Elliot The Musical provides a wealth of historical context and stimulus for cross-curricular activities. Our workshop encourages students to understand the history and political situation at that time. Through creating your own version of a scene from the show, key themes of citizenship and individuality will also be explored, with a particular focus on being different because of talent and/or gender.

The Woman in Black Master Class - Fog and creepily haunted houses, supernatural happenings, sea mists and dark stormy nights, lonely funerals and creaking attic doors.

Education Connections: Drama & Theatre Studies, English, Performing Arts
Appropriate Ages: 11 year plus



Unanimously acclaimed, The Woman in Black combines the power and intensity of live theatre with a cinematic quality inspired by the world of film noir. It gives audiences an evening of unremitting drama as they are transported into a terrifying and ghostly world. This workshop will explore the central theme of storytelling in depth, as it lies at the heart of the play. The origins of the stage play are also examined through other techniques such as improvisation games, creative storytelling and imaginative theatre.

Stomp Master Class - A physical theatre Master Class exploring the use of the body in a space to create visually stimulating movement with character, emotion and fun.

Education Connections: Music, Dance, Drama & Theatre Studies, Art & Design
Appropriate Ages: 7 year plus



A physical theatre Master Class exploring the use of the body in a space to create visually-stimulating movement and performance with character, emotion and fun. Workshops will also explore the use of beats and rhythms to create soundscapes using hands and feet, random objects and boom-whackers (tuned tubes used to create music).

The Phantom Of The Opera Master Class - Dark, brooding and breathtaking, this romantic masterpiece is theatre at its very best...

Education Connections: Drama & Theatre Studies, English, Performing Arts, History
Appropriate Ages: 11-18 year plus



This can be either an acting or musical theatre Master Class. Themes that will be explored are love, ambition, bullying, citizenship, use of mask, art and the power of music. Workshops may use materials from the show such as music of the night to evoke ideas and concepts that run through history and literature.

Les Miserables Master Class - Multi award-winning adaptation of Victor Hugo's titanic novel about one man's struggle against adversity in 19th century France. Truly 'the people's musical'.

Education Connections: Drama & Theatre Studies, English, Music, History
Appropriate Ages: 11-18 year plus



This Master Class offers the opportunity for students to experience Les Miserables from an actor's perspective. They will gain a new insight into the text based upon Victor Hugo's novel. Acting techniques will be explored thoroughly, along with characters and the shows central themes and emotional journeys, including unrequited love, desire, history, ambition and greed. Workshops may use materials from the show to contextualize the workshop.

We Will Rock You Master Class - The hit musical featuring 31 of Queen's greatest songs, including Killer Queen, Crazy Little Thing Called Love, We Are The Champions and We Will Rock You.



Education Connections: Creative Writing, Music, Drama & Performing Arts
 Appropriate Ages: 11-18 year plus

Explore the importance of music in theatre with this Master Class. The focus will be on exploring acting through song techniques, using specific songs from the production (for example Radio Gaga). Students will also work on how best to create characters and tell a story through their performance. This is an excellent workshop to further your students' understanding of how music is used to create drama and what 'the musical' is as a genre. Your students will also improve their team building skills and grow in confidence when it comes to performance.

Thriller Live Master Class - The Thriller Live workshop comes from a mainly dance perspective, so your students will immediately be learning choreography and then putting it together with music from the show.



Education Connections: Dance, Music, Drama & Performing Arts
 Appropriate Ages: 11-18 year plus)

The content of the songs will be explored and there will be discussions about how this applies to the creation of Thriller as a show.

War Horse Master Class - The sensational War Horse tells the story of Joey, a farm horse belonging to young Albert, who goes on a dramatic adventure after being sold into cavalry during WW1.



Education Connections: Drama & Theatre Studies, English, History, Art, Design & Technology,
 Performing Arts
 Appropriate Ages: 11 year plus

Using life-size puppets created and operated by the South African handspring company, this is a moving and inspirational production. The workshop is a devising/physical theatre Master Class, which allows your students to explore techniques and processes used in the creation of the show. This includes physicality, animal acting, storytelling and page-to-stage techniques, with reference to puppetry, mask work and physical theatre.

Following our Master Classes today, we'll have free time to explore and then it's off to an early dinner and then the theatre this evening!



West End Theatre – This evening is our first show! The show will be in combination with the workshop we attended this morning. Vision groups may choose from a variety of shows and workshops. Let us know your preferences!

Day 3

Breakfast & Dinner

Good morning Britain! After breakfast at our hotel, today is the day for some serious sightseeing!

The Original Sightseeing Tour - The Original Tour is the essential introduction to London. We invite you to experience the magical sights and sounds of London in comfort and safety aboard this hop-on / hop-off bus tour. From historic sites and attractions, to some of the most famous views in the world, this tour will take you where you want to go. Founded over 60 years ago, the Original Tour is the most popular open-top sightseeing red bus operator in the world! With over 80 stops, 3 main sightseeing routes and countless photo opportunities, The Original Tour really is the finest way to see London and her landmarks. Sit back, relax and take in the sights, sounds and iconic views of the city, both ancient and modern. www.theoriginaltour.com



Thames River Cruise – In conjunction with your hop-on/hop-off sightseeing tour, your ticket will also include a Thames River Cruise! See London from a fresh perspective, and sail along the River Thames! Cruises depart from Westminster Pier (Big Ben) and the Tower (of London) Pier. The passes are valid within the same 24 hours as your bus ticket. Most cruises are operated by modern, wheelchair-accessible, all-weather boats with panoramic windows and open-air deck areas. Commentary is generally available in English, French, German, Japanese, Mandarin and Spanish.



After our fun-filled day of exploration, we'll have dinner locally and then it's off to the theatre again!

**LONDON
WEST END**

West End Theatre – The show we'll see this evening will be in combination with the second workshop we attended on the previous day. Vision groups may choose from a variety of shows and workshops. Let us know your preferences!

Day 4

Breakfast

Rise and shine London! After breakfast, we'll pack our gear and check-out of our hotel. Prior to leaving London, we'll squeeze in one last Master Class with a focus on audition technique!

Audition Techniques Master Class – A practical approach to showing your best in 60 seconds or less! Based on skills taught by the GSA Conservatoire, this workshop takes your students through all the steps of a successful audition. This is an ideal opportunity for students preparing to audition for drama schools, shows and more! During this 2-hour workshop they will experience the basics of physical presentation through the specifics of a master class setting. They will also learn about what awaits them in the real world of theatre. Please note that this is a non-show-specific workshop and at least 3 to 4 students should be prepared to perform either a monologue or song for the workshop.

Later, we'll start to say goodbye to this wonderful city! We will wave to our new friends as we leave and hopefully, take away memories that will last a lifetime!



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Add-On Options

'The Art of Business in Theatre' Master Class – The magic of theatre doesn't just happen onstage, some of the most important aspects happen through the help of producers, marketing directors and public relations reps. This Master Class explores the ins and outs of marketing and producing theatre as well as the opportunity to understand the connection between the business skills students learn in coursework and how these skills are applied to 'show business.' The workshop also touches upon how drama techniques can be used by anyone to become more dynamic speakers and creative thinkers. By the end of the 90-minute session, students should have a good understanding of the business mechanics involved in theatre as well as useful techniques for speaking in front of a group.

Warner Brothers Studio Tour – People the world-over have been enchanted by the Harry Potter films for nearly a decade. The wonderful special effects and amazing creatures have made this iconic series beloved to both young and old – and now, for the first time, the doors are open for everyone at the studio where it first began. You'll have the chance to go behind-the-scenes and see many things the camera never showed. From breathtakingly detailed sets to stunning costumes, props and animatronics, Warner Bros. Studio Tour London provides a unique showcase of the extraordinary British artistry, technology and talent that went into making the most successful film series of all time. Secrets will be revealed.

The London Eye – Bring London to life with an experience on the London Eye. Astonish, amaze and excite pupils with an incredible perspective of London that is at once a history lesson, geography lesson, cultural lesson and a lesson in engineering and design. From every angle, the London Eye is an exceptionally useful and inspiring educational tool. This is because so many different disciplines went into its creation and there are so many ways in which it can be used to exemplify aspects of learning - whether in specific areas such as design, technology, architecture and engineering, or more broadly to promote numeracy and literacy, commercial or community issues.

Backstage Tour at The National Theatre - Explore the backstage life of the National Theatre! The National Theatre is a working building, producing around 20 new productions every year. Rehearsals, prop and costume-making all happen onsite. No two tours are ever the same! Knowledgeable and entertaining guides will lead you through the backstage areas of the three theatres, following in the footsteps of the greatest actors and directors of the last 35 years, and revealing the secrets that bring the theatre's work to stage.

Jack the Ripper Walking Tour – As twilight unfolds across the sinister thoroughfares of London’s East End and as the shadows lengthen across its cobblestone courtyards and tucked away passageways, this original Jack the Ripper tour sets off into the dark alleyways and darker recesses of Whitechapel to follow the ripper’s blood-stained trail of terror. Step-by-bloodcurdling-step you will find yourself spirited back in time to the dark autumn nights of 1888 when Jack the Ripper prowled the very streets and people walked in fear!

The Tower of London – Despite the Tower of London's grim reputation as a place of torture and death, within these walls you will also discover the history of a royal palace, an armory and a powerful fortress. Don't miss Royal Beasts and learn about the wild and wonderful animals that have inhabited the Tower, making it the first London Zoo. Discover the priceless Crown Jewels newly displayed in 2012, join an iconic Beefeater on a tour and hear their bloody tales, stand where famous heads have rolled, learn the legend of the Tower's ravens, storm the battlements and get to grips with swords and armor!



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LIGHTS OF LONDON – 4-DAY TOUR

Minimum Booking Numbers:

20 students

What's Included:

Round-trip international flights
3-nights' accommodation
Breakfasts & dinners daily
2 Show-Specific Theatre Master Classes
Audition Techniques Master Class
2 London West End Theatrical Performances
Admission to The Original Sightseeing Tour
Admission to Thames River Cruise
Visions Tour Ambassador
24-hour emergency cover

What's Not Included:

Fully comprehensive insurance (mandatory)
Transfers to/from home airport
Transportation for activities not shown in the itinerary
Lunches in resort
Cost of visas, full or collective passports
Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel
Sightseeing / Entertainment Options not shown in
Itinerary
Hotel incidental deposits & bills – meals, mini-bar items,
recreation charges, purchases billed to room, etc
Any gratuities – coach drivers, maid service, bellman
service, area guides, tour ambassador

As always, our staff are always available to you to answer any questions you may have regarding programming. If we may serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

The Americas: info@visions-in-education.com / 417.231.4892
United Kingdom: info@visionsineducation.co.uk / 01444 810399



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