



Insider's

LONDON

at The Lansdowne Club

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London Eye, Big Ben and Parliament

Program Highlights

- Relax at **The Lansdowne Club**, one of London's most exclusive private clubs, located in the heart of upscale Mayfair.
- Learn about life inside the palace walls from a former bodyguard of Princess Diana and her sons.
- Go behind the scenes at the BBC during a tour of the vaunted network's studios.
- Discover the tools of the trade at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts. Then learn about Elizabethan dramatics at a reconstruction of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre.
- Visit Blenheim Palace, Winston Churchill's birthplace. Then travel through the Cotswolds en route to Oxford.
- Celebrate 200 years of Dickens' London. Visit sites immortalized by the writer and home of Dr. Johnson, compiler of the first English Dictionary.
- Enjoy ample leisure time. An exclusive Hospitality Desk can help you plan for personal exploration.

London, one of the world's oldest cities, still surprises and delights with its mix of old traditions and new trends. Centuries of rich history easily mingle with breakthroughs in science, an ever-blossoming arts community and an eternal fascination from this side of the pond. A new energy is palpable with the royal wedding of Prince William fresh in everyone's memory. More festivities are to come in 2012, when the city will host the 2012 Summer Olympics and celebrate The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the bicentennial of Dickens' birth. This specially planned journey is the perfect opportunity to slip into the celebratory mood like a local. Stay at **The Lansdowne Club**, a historic, private club in Mayfair, one of the city's most exclusive neighborhoods. Each day brings new adventures and insights that you'll gain from exploring the city and meeting people who have an insider's perspective, from Dickens' world to the vibrant theater scene, from a former royal bodyguard to Blenheim Palace's archivist.

UNESCO

Blenheim Palace (1987), a UNESCO *World Heritage List* site, is featured in this program. UNESCO sites are distinguished due to universal scenic, historic, artistic or scientific value.



Blenheim Palace





Windsor Castle

Howdy Ags!

Welcome to our five-night *Insider's London* adventure! Never has there been a better time to explore London: 2012 marks the **200th anniversary of Charles Dickens' birth, the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II and the Summer Olympic Games**. Preparations for these festivities are transforming London into an accessible, pedestrian-friendly city bursting with hospitality and fanfare.

This special travel program serves up "backstage pass" access to a side of London you will experience nowhere else. A former royal bodyguard will share his stories of protecting Princess Diana, as well as memories of newlywed Prince William. Go behind the scenes at the BBC for a look at the inner workings of this venerable news and entertainment network. Get the backstory of London's storied theater scene at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts and the Globe Theatre. Venture outside the city to Blenheim Palace, birthplace of Winston Churchill.

Drive through the scenic Cotswolds, visit Windsor Castle and explore the University of Oxford. Back in London, call to mind the works of Charles Dickens while visiting sites populated by his characters.

Accommodations have been specially arranged at one of London's private clubs. The Lansdowne Club is ideally located in the sought-after Mayfair neighborhood. Enjoy a rare opportunity to stay at a members-only club.

Enjoy the convenience and value of group travel with the flexibility of leisure time. Customize your trip with add-ons or extensions. Our dedicated travel professionals are ready to assist you.

Gig 'Em!

Jennifer Bohac

Jennifer Bohac '87 Ph.D.
Traveling Aggies
The Association of Former Students

www.AggieNetwork.com/Travel

We experienced a first class trip. The Association of Former Students and AHI did a great job.

Dan '77 & Lynda Kaspar

We've always known Ags are the best. Traveling Ags know how to travel in style. We all felt as though we were pampered the entire trip.

David '80 & Dawn Henderson

The Traveling Aggie trips have been a great way to visit new destinations and reunite or meet new Aggies.

Larry '68 & Susan Zatopek

LONDON

An Inside Look at the City of Cities

Day 1: Depart Gateway City

Depart for **London, England**, aboard scheduled jet service. ⤴

Day 2: London

D

Upon arrival at Heathrow International airport, transfer to **The Lansdowne Club**. You may see some of London's most distinguished landmarks, including Westminster Abbey and Houses of Parliament. ⤴

Local Flavor: Relax with traditional afternoon tea.

Educational Focus: *Inside the Palace Walls.* A former royal bodyguard shares his experiences protecting the royal family. SAS (Special Air Service)-trained Ken Wharfe was the bodyguard of Princess Diana and Princes William and Harry. Tonight, gather with fellow travelers for a *Welcome Dinner* at the club.

Day 3: Windsor & London

B

Excursion: *Windsor Castle.* Visit the world's oldest castle still in residence. This grand castle bears little resemblance to the 11th-century motte-and-bailey structure built by William the Conqueror. See St. George's Chapel, Queen Mary's Dolls' House and the State Apartments.

Independent Exploration: Explore the charming village of Windsor. Have lunch and shop for souvenirs.

Excursion: *The BBC.*

Visit the BBC studios for a one-of-a-kind, behind-the-camera look at the British Broadcasting Corp. Guglielmo Marconi, the wireless communications trailblazer, helped establish this pioneering network in 1922. Since then, the BBC has become one of



Westminster Abbey



the world's largest news organizations with far-reaching fans on both sides of the pond.

Day 4: London

B

Excursion: *London Theatre Now and Then.* Go behind the scenes at the renowned Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts, England's oldest acting school. Many celebrated actors, including Anthony Hopkins, Alan Rickman and Helen Mirren, graduated from RADA. Meet current students and discover how actors learn their craft. Continue on to a faithful reconstruction of the Globe Theatre. William Shakespeare used the original building from 1599 until it was destroyed by fire in 1613. This open-air playhouse on the South Bank of the Thames now presents Shakespeare's classics in addition to works by modern day playwrights. Visit a fascinating exhibit on life in Elizabethan

Exclusive Accommodations



The Lansdowne Club

By special arrangement, enjoy a stay at this elite private club in one of London's most exclusive neighborhoods, Mayfair. Just a stroll from Piccadilly, Bond Street and Hyde Park, the club is near many of London's top attractions. The club itself is a historic home, built in 1763 by Prime Minister John Stuart. Stuart later sold Lansdowne House to William Petty, the prime minister (and friend of Benjamin Franklin) who conceded defeat in the American Revolution in 1782. The home was sold in the early 1900s and opened as a club in 1935. Today, the club features a modern fitness club, a billiards room and library, two restaurants and three lounges. Recently renovated guestrooms are air conditioned and are outfitted with modern amenities to ensure a comfortable stay.



Top:
Spectacular
ballroom

Center:
Pristine pool

Lower:
Elegant
guestroom

times. Learn about the role of theater in people's lives and how plays were produced and staged under Shakespeare's assiduous direction.

Independent Exploration: The rest of the day is at leisure. Discover world-class museums such as the British Museum, home of the Elgin Marbles and the Rosetta Stone. Or continue the morning's theatrical theme and take in a performance.

Day 5: Blenheim Palace & Oxford **B**

Excursion: Churchill's Boyhood Home and Dreaming Spires. Blenheim Palace is the home of the Dukes of Marlborough and Winston Churchill's

birthplace. Tour this baroque masterpiece whose interior boasts a priceless collection of paintings, tapestries, porcelain and furniture. Continue through the Cotswolds, where pretty villages are nestled in the limestone hills. Arrive in Oxford, described by poet Matthew Arnold as "The City of Dreaming Spires" because of its magnificent architecture. Visit one of the University of Oxford's ancient colleges. Founded in the late 11th century, Oxford is the oldest English-speaking university.

Day 6: London **B/L/D**

Excursion: Charles Dickens' London. February 7, 2012 marks the 200th anniversary of Dickens' birth. Learn



Above:
Mayfair, London's most exclusive district



Left:
Radcliffe Camera and All Souls College, University of Oxford

about the life and times of one of the most popular and best-loved English novelists. The author of works such as “A Christmas Carol” and “David Copperfield” not only created some of literature’s most iconic characters, but the recurring theme of social reform found in his stories helped inform—and change—a nation. Visit several sites immortalized in Dickens’ novels. Look inside The Old Curiosity Shop, the setting for the novel of the same name, and Lincoln’s Inn, featured prominently in *Bleak House*. Also enjoy a visit to the home of Dickens’ fellow champion of the English language, Dr. Johnson, compiler of the first comprehensive English Dictionary.

Local Flavor: Follow in Dickens’ footsteps and enjoy lunch at Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese, an ancient pub dating back to the 13th century, where the author was known to imbibe.

Independent Exploration: The afternoon is yours to pursue your own interests. Stroll through Hyde Park and listen to the colorful orators at Speaker’s Corner. Ride the London Eye. Explore the



Cotswolds

Victoria and Albert Museum or the Tate Modern. Discover the dark history of the Tower of London. The choices are yours! This evening, attend a *Farewell Dinner* at the Club.

Day 7: Return

B

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for the return flights to your gateway city.†

NOTE: Itinerary sequence and/or scheduled events may change. Many excursions in this program involve an element of walking.

Included meals indicated each day as B/L/D = Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner.

† *Provided for Air Program participants.*

Included Features

Accommodations

- Five nights at **The Lansdowne Club**, a private club in London's sought-after Mayfair district.

Meals

- Enjoy an **extensive meal program**, including five traditional English breakfasts, one lunch and two dinners, and afternoon tea on the day of arrival in addition to in-flight dining service. Tea or coffee is included with all meals, plus wine with dinner. Take advantage of leisure time to try local cuisine independently.
- Sample authentic regional specialties at a local pub.
- Attend a special **Welcome Reception and Dinner**.
- Gather for a **Farewell Reception and Dinner**.

Your Exciting Travel Program

(For full details please refer to the day-by-day itinerary.)

- **Informative educational programs**, presented by local experts, will enhance your insight into the region.
- Personal **VOX listening devices** allow you to hear every word from your expert guides.
- **The following excursions:**
 - Visit Windsor Castle, the world's oldest castle still in residence.
 - Investigate the BBC with an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour.
 - Go backstage at two of London's prestigious theatrical institutions: the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts and the Globe Theatre.
 - Tour the Dreaming Spires of Oxford and Winston Churchill's home.
 - Glimpse London as Charles Dickens knew it.

Many Included Extras

- Consultation services of a dedicated **Passenger Service Representative** prior to departure.
- Services of a friendly, professional **Travel Director** and expert local guides throughout your stay.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist you in your planning.
- Tipping of excursion guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel wallet.



Reserve your trip to London today!

For Office Use Only: B #: _____ Date: _____
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Legal Name (as it appears on passport)

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Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

(2) _____
Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

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City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Home: (_____) _____

Office: (_____) _____

E-mail: _____

Yes, please e-mail me information about special travel opportunities.

Sharing with _____ (Form sent separately.)

Name(s) you would like on your name badge(s):

(1) _____

(2) _____

I/we authorize you to make my/our reservations as follows:

Land Program

- I/we will make my/our own air arrangements and transfers.
- Please call me/us to discuss my/our air options.
- I prefer single accommodations at an additional \$1,095 (limited availability).
- I request assistance in securing a roommate but will accept a single, if one is available at this time, and pay the single supplement. Should a roommate be found, I understand the supplement will no longer apply.

Land and Air Program

I/we reserve the Land Program and request the Air Program to/from London, England, to depart from:

Departure City

Please send me information on upgrading my flights.

*Please note: Air prices will be sent to you with your Reservation Confirmation and air schedule sent at 90 days before departure. International flight arrangements can be canceled with **no obligation up to 75 days before departure.***

Reservations are subject to availability and processed on a first come, first served basis. Reservations to be paid in full by February 17, 2012 (75 days prior to departure). Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Final payment may be made by personal check, MasterCard or Visa. Make checks payable to AHI International.

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Enclosed is a deposit of _____ (\$600 per person required) to reserve _____ place(s).

Accept my check made payable to **AHI International**.

Charge my deposit to: MasterCard Visa

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(Signature as it appears on credit card)

Please note: Any payment to AHI International constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out herein, including but not limited to the Cancellation terms.

LAND PROGRAM

May 3-8, 2012

Full Price

\$2,845

Special Savings

\$250

Special Price

\$2,595*

*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.

VAT is an additional \$175 per person.

All prices quoted are per person, based on double occupancy (unless otherwise stated) and are subject to change without notice. Single accommodations are an additional \$1,095 (limited availability).

AIR PROGRAM

May 2-8, 2012

Take advantage of AHI Travel's exclusive Group Air Program, which provides the benefit of specially negotiated rates on major commercial airlines worldwide. Participants enjoy advanced seat assignments on most airlines; guaranteed arrival and departure transfers with baggage handling; a price guarantee that covers airfare, fuel surcharges and all taxes; and many other benefits.

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AHI Travel's exclusive Air Program provides special advantages for travelers who are flying on our designated group flights.

NOT INCLUDED-Fees for passports and, if applicable, visas, entry/departure fees; personal gratuities; laundry and dry cleaning; excursions, wines, liquors, mineral waters and meals not mentioned in this brochure under included features; travel insurance; all items of a strictly personal nature.

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CANCELLATION-In addition to airline cancellation penalties, all cancellations for any reason whatsoever will be subject to a \$250 per person cancellation fee. Cancellation from 120 days to 76 days prior to departure will result in forfeiture of 10% of the entire cost of the trip per person; 75 days to 30 days, 50% of the trip cost per person; cancellation from 29 days up to the time of departure will result in 100% forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. **TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE IS AVAILABLE. AN APPLICATION WILL BE SENT AFTER YOU RESERVE.** All cancellations must be submitted in writing to AHI International Corporation.

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AHI Travel is the premier operator of deluxe travel programs sponsored by alumni associations. Their experienced, professional staff has offered the highest level of service in **innovative travel programs since 1962.**
In AHI Travel's care, you can rely on:

- **An exceptional travel value.** It would be impossible for an independent traveler to arrange all these unique experiences, inclusions and services at a comparable price.
- **Unique access to local sites.** Take advantage of their 50 years of travel experience to gain preferred entrance to popular sites and to uncover the region's hidden treasures.
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