

Tauck World Discovery: Castles & Kings: London to Paris

Day 1: Arrive London and take a tour by private double-decker bus

Tour begins: 3:00 PM, The Royal Horseguards. A transfer is included from London's Heathrow Airport to The Royal Horseguards hotel, centrally located near Buckingham Palace and the Royal Parks. Board your private double-decker bus, a London icon, for a fun-filled sightseeing excursion that introduces some of the most famous sights in London. Join us for a welcome reception and dinner tonight.

Day 2: The Tower, the Thames by speedboat and soaring on the London Eye

Be prepared for a Beefeater's hearty welcome at the infamous Tower of London - a castle, menagerie and a prison through the centuries; today it houses the Queen's priceless Crown Jewels. You'll wander through turreted passageways to the Bloody Tower and view the gems, before boarding a speedboat at St. Katherine Pier for a Thames River adventure* that ends at the London Eye. Next your view of the city shifts to vertical, as you ascend in a private egg-shaped capsule 450 feet above the river on this futuristic observation wheel. Tonight, dine at a traditional London pub near the Convent Garden market; there's been a tavern on site here since 1772.

Day 3: Windsor Castle, bicycling in the Royal Parks and a West End show

English kings and queens have called Windsor Castle home for over 900 years; today you'll discover how English royalty really live on a guided visit. You'll know if the Queen is in residence by the flag that flies over the Round Tower. View Queen Mary's Dolls' House, a miniature palace with working chandeliers, a grandfather clock that chimes on the hour, a water system, and a tiny wine cellar that contains real wine. This afternoon, hop on a bicycle* for a ride through London's Royal Parks, where fantastic "green" routes take you through some of London's prettiest areas and away from traffic and congestion. After dinner on your own, it's off to London's West End Theatre District to attend a performance of the hit show, "42nd Street"!

Day 4: Mummies and more at the British Museum plus a London spy walk

It's true that many of London's treasures can be found out and about, but wait until you discover some of the famous objects inside the 250+-year-old British Museum. Grown from a collection of "curiosities" presented to King George II in 1753 to one of the world's most remarkable museums, you'll find yourself in the largest covered public space in Europe. Your guide will introduce you to the highlights of a beloved institution dedicated to telling the story of world cultures - perhaps viewing the Rosetta Stone, the key to deciphering Egyptian hieroglyphics; marbles removed from the Parthenon in Athens during the Ottoman Empire; Egyptian statues and mummies; and much more. The afternoon brings you back outdoors for a London Spy Walk, an entertaining mix of stories and sights that will have you playing a part in Britain's underground world of intelligence gathering and espionage. Will you rescue the girl before the silos explode? Who will interrogate the white cat? Find out during your last night in London!

Day 5: Under the Channel & through the "Chunnel" via Eurostar train for your family's Paris tour

Travel aboard the high-speed Eurostar train from London to Paris; your crossing under the English Channel will take about two hours and fifteen minutes - the fastest time ever. Your first taste of Paris is the special joie de vivre atmosphere of hilltop Montmartre, where poets, writers and artists have practiced their crafts for centuries; a guided walking tour may reveal them at work. Check into your hotel, right next to the Tuileries Garden, then join us for dinner at an authentic Parisian brasserie where you will experience a real taste of life in Paris!

Day 6: An opulent chateau at Versailles and the sights of Paris

Today's Paris tour takes you about an hour outside the city for a guided visit to Chateau de Versailles, built by King Louis XIV and the largest palace in Europe, revealing a realm of grandeur and riches beyond the imagination of the Montmartre artists of his time; it would cost more than \$2 billion to build this sprawling palace complex today! Explore the opulent palace with a local guide and view the exquisite gardens, among the most extraordinary and famous in the world. Return to Paris where a sightseeing tour introduces you to landmark city sights including the Eiffel Tower and the Champs-Élysées. The evening is free for your family to enjoy Paris as you wish.

Day 7: Treasure hunt in the Louvre, Notre Dame & Paris as you please

This morning at Musée du Louvre, one of the world's most famous museums, you'll meet some of its "residents," like Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa or famed statues such as Venus de Milo and Winged Victory. You'll also get an entertaining introduction to the history of art by joining in the fun of a Louvre scavenger hunt and then, close by, visit the Tuileries Garden - a leafy public park with fountains, basins and a carousel that is one of the most popular in Paris. Then visit 800+-year-old Notre Dame Cathedral, whose flying buttresses, gargoyles and twin bell towers were made famous in Victor Hugo's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. The afternoon is left free for lunch on your own and exploring as you like. Join us tonight for a farewell dinner, featuring an interactive magic show full of humor and fun.

Day 8: Journey home

Tour ends: Paris. Fly home anytime; a transfer is included from The Westin Paris - Vendôme to Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport or Orly Airport. You should allow a minimum of 3 hours for your flight check-in.