English Masterpiece

For any questions or concerns about your upcoming tour not addressed here, please call 1-800-826-2266

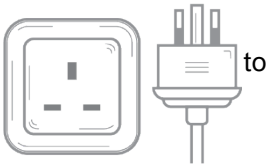
Time zone: England is 5 hours ahead of the US Eastern Time Zone and 6 hours ahead of the US Central Time Zone.

Weather: Average High/Low

City	April	Aug.	Sept.
London	53°F/38°F	70°F/57°F	67°F/55°F
Oxford	46°F/35° F	70°F/52°F	65°F/51°F
Plymouth	54°F/43° F	66°F/55°F	64°F/52°F

UNITED KINGDOM TRAVEL INFORMATION

Currency: Mastercard & Visa are the most widely accepted debit & credit cards. Discover is not accepted in the UK. The unit of currency in the United Kingdom is the British Pound. Currency exchange rates fluctuate on a daily basis. A helpful website for referencing current rates is www.oanda.com



Electrical Current: The electric current in the United Kingdom is 220 volts, 50 cycles. Electric outlets and plugs are different from those in North America. An adapter is required to plug your device into an electrical socket. However, a voltage converter is only required if your device is not compatible with 220 volts. Check the voltage of any device that you are thinking of bringing. If the tag on your device lists 110- 220 volts, then you will not need a converter. Adapters and converters are available at luggage, department, and electronics stores.

Gratuities: Gratuities for all included features of your tour, such as city guides, included meals, and attractions, are included in the cost of your tour. You will be responsible for the gratuities for your British Blue Badge guide, British driver and the Holiday Vacations Tour Director. The gratuity for your British Blue Badge Guide is 8 pounds per person per day. The recommended amount for the British driver is £8 per person, per day of service and $8 to 10 US Dollars per person, per day for the Tour Director. Tips should be offered individually directly to each person at the end of their time of service. If you have questions, please ask your Tour Director.

Accommodations: Although there are chain hotels in the UK & Europe, standardized hotel rooms that we enjoy in the US &Canada are the exception rather than the rule. Since hotels are often located in older buildings, small and irregularly sized rooms in buildings that are bit maze-like are normal. Rooms with twin beds very close together, queen beds made by connecting two twin beds, hand-held shower heads, and small elevators are all quite normal in the UK and Europe, even in luxury hotels.

Meal On Your Own: Expenses and Gratuities: For the meals not included with the tour you can expect to spend the equivalent of $15 – $45 USD per person, per day. The suggested gratuity for staff serving non-included meals is approximately 10%. It is not necessary to tip for takeaway (fast food), cafeteria-style meals, or drinks served in a pub. Some restaurants and pubs may automatically add a gratuity that may or may not be given directly to the server. When in doubt ask your server.

Packing: Carry-On Bags**:** Bags with wheels are not suitable as a carry-on bag in the United Kingdom where the motorcoaches have very limited space. Day packs, backpacks, and tote bags work best for this purpose.

Public Facilities: Outside of your hotel room some of the restrooms will have pay toilets or attendants collecting at the door. You may wish to have local coins available for these situations. All tap water is safe to drink. The hot and cold-water faucets may be the opposite of North America and hot water can be extremely hot.

Value Added Tax (VAT): There is a Value Added Tax in the UK. This tax is levied on most goods except for food and many

services. In certain cases, the Value Added Tax on goods that are exported to the United States can be reimbursed to you upon completion and submission of a special form. There may be a service charge for the forms deducted from your reimbursement.