



“Celebration of London’s Historic Theatres” Detailed Itinerary

- ❖ ***Guests will be accompanied, at all times during the scheduled program, by Joe Rosenberg, President, V.I.P. Tour Director, and former chair of the LHAT Conference Committee.***

Sunday July 25, 2004

Free Day in Philadelphia

Hotel To Airport Transfer:

6 PM: Guests departing on British Airways Flight #68 will be met at the Conference Hotel by a private, luxury coach for a complimentary transfer to Philadelphia International Airport.

The Flight From Philadelphia To London:

Guests will depart Philadelphia International Airport and fly overnight to the UK.

Guests will make their own flight arrangements, enabling them to use their frequent flier mileage and to book flights from London or Philadelphia to their city of origin.

British Airways Flights #66 or #68 depart Philadelphia 7 PM and 9:05 PM, arriving London Heathrow 7:05 AM and 9:15 AM respectively, Monday morning. Because if will be better arriving in London later in the morning, **our group flight will be designated as British Airways #68, departing Philadelphia 9:05 PM.**

We strongly suggest that guests take a deep nap before the first evening’s dinner event.

Monday July 26, 2004

Approx. 9:15 AM: **Guests arriving on BA Flight #68 will be met at Heathrow by a private, luxury coach and a licensed Blue-Badge London Expert for a complimentary transfer – with London commentary en route - to the Royal Horseguards, the headquarters hotel.** *(Included in the cost of the program.)*

Guests having accommodations other than the headquarters hotel can take our private coach to the Royal Horseguards and then transfer on their own to their accommodations.

Guests arriving on other flights will transfer to their accommodations on their own.

The Headquarters Hotel:

The Royal Horseguards is one of London's most elegant, grand hotels - a five star hotel tucked away in a quiet area of Whitehall overlooking Victoria Embankment Gardens and the Thames. The hotel is an easy walk to Trafalgar Square, all West End Theatres, and the Houses of Parliament. All standard rooms have been refurbished to Executive Standard and have many amenities, including air conditioning, double or twin beds, safe, high speed internet access, desk, access to a 'sports center' and a 'business center', CNN/Sky TV, minibar, ironing centre, valet and 24 hour room service, fine restaurants and bars on premises. Upgraded deluxe rooms overlook the River Thames, are larger. Each deluxe room has been designed by a different world renown Interior Decorator. **A very substantial breakfast will be served daily.**

Note: Our coach will probably arrive at the hotel after 11 AM. Rooms may not be ready when we first arrive. Check-in time is approximately 2 PM, but the hotel will make every effort to have our rooms ready early. If rooms are not ready upon our arrival, luggage will be checked with the Bell Captain and guests will be asked to return at a designated time.

After guests settle into their room, we strongly recommend that they take a deep nap before this evening's activity.

6:45 PM: Guests will depart the headquarters hotel (Royal Horseguards) and walk together to our first event. Guests not staying at the hotel will be asked to meet on their own at:

7 PM: A 3-course Dinner in a 1904 private room at Simpson's In The Strand, one of London's best known and most historic (1828) restaurants.

(Cash Bar: Guests will be billed for alcoholic and soft beverages beyond hot coffee/tea.)

Our guest of honor will be Peter Longman, Director of the Theatres Trust, who will give an informal introduction to The Theatres Trust and how it relates to The West End Theatres.

Each guest will receive a complimentary copy of "Act Now," a book recently published by the UK Theatres Trust, about the need for the renovation and improvements of 40 commercially owned West End Theatres (30 of which were originally built around 1900).

Tuesday July 27, 2004

Guests will depart the headquarters hotel (Royal Horseguards) and walk together to our first event. Guests not staying at the hotel will be asked to meet, on their own, at a pre-designated location and pre-designated time.

Depending on their availability and rehearsal schedules, we will visit the following **West End Theatres owned by Andrew Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Group:**

Her Majesty's Theatre, with an exploration of its' original Victorian backstage mechanics, as well as the understage machinery being used for "Phantom of the Opera

The 1910 Palladium, one of London's most storied theatres.

The Theatre Royal Drury Lane, one of the world's most famous theatres. Our hosts will be three actors who will bring to vivid life the history and characters associated with one of the world's oldest, and one of the West End's most magnificent, theatres.

Depending on their availability and rehearsal schedules, we will visit the following:

The backstage and auditorium of the newly renovated Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

The historic Savoy Theatre, one of the West End's only Art Deco theatres, lovingly restored to its original 1930's décor following a devastating fire.

A hidden Covent Garden church, in which is located graves of several of London's theatre greats.

For **lunch**, guests will be introduced to the locations of a number of restaurants, within a short walking distance of each other, **in Covent Garden**. Guests will eat, on their own, at the restaurant of their choice.

Free Evening.

Wednesday July 28, 2004

Guests will depart the headquarters hotel (Royal Horseguards) and walk together to our first event. Guests not staying at the hotel will be asked to meet, on their own, at a pre-designated location and pre-designated time.

Depending on their availability and rehearsal schedules, we will visit the following **West End Theatres owned by The Ambassador Theatre Group, second largest West End theatre company:**

The Albery Wyndham's The Duke of York's

Depending on their availability and rehearsal schedules, we will visit:

The Haymarket Theatre Royal, one of the few privately owned West End Theatres.

The Lyceum Theatre, beautifully restored after being abandoned for many years, and now the home of "The Lion King."

Late Afternoon:

A visit to the Theatre Museum, Covent Garden (The National Museum of the Performing Arts), and their exhibition relating to the publication "Act Now."

A slide presentation by Peter Longman, Director of the Theatres Trust, the organization set up by the UK Parliament to protect theatres (historic and new) throughout the UK.

An informal wine reception hosted by the Theatres Trust.

12:30 PM: For **lunch**, guests will be introduced to the locations of a number of restaurants, within a short walking distance of each other, **in the West End**. Guests will eat, on their own, at the restaurant of their choice. Free evening

Thursday July 29, 2004

8 AM: Private, luxury coaches will depart the headquarters hotel (Royal Horseguards). Guests not staying at this hotel will be asked to arrive at the Royal Horseguards before the scheduled time of departure.

Accompanied by a West End Actor/Blue-Badge London Expert, we will have a morning private, luxury coach tour of the City of London (London's financial district), and Shakespeare's Southwark. We will visit Southwark Cathedral.

During our coach tour: depending on their availability and rehearsal schedules we will visit: **The re-created Globe Theatre, The Royal National Theatre, The Tate Modern**, housed in the former Bankside Power Station, **The Old Vic, one of London's oldest theatres (1816)**, home to Laurence Olivier, John Gielgud, Dame Judi Dench, Maggie Smith, and Kevin Spacey.

Depending on logistics, guests will have the opportunity to eat **lunch**, on their own, **on the South Bank of The Thames, in the Tate Modern Restaurant, with dramatic views of the Thames and St. Paul's Cathedral, or in the restaurant of Shakespeare's Globe.**

Accompanied by a West End Actor/Blue-Badge London Expert, we will have a mid and late afternoon private, luxury coach and walking tour of London's Theatreland, and the City of Westminster (the heart of royal and political power).

Guests will have the choice of returning to the headquarters hotels, or visiting The British Museum, with its new Great Court, and returning to the hotel on their own.

Friday July 30, 2004

Guests will depart the headquarters hotel (Royal Horseguards) and walk together to our first event. Guests not staying at the hotel will be asked to meet, on their own, at a pre-designated location and pre-designated time.

Depending on their availability and rehearsal schedules, we will visit:

The newly renovated Prince of Wales Theatre, owned by Delfont Mackintosh Limited, The newly restored London Coliseum, with England's largest proscenium.

His schedule permitting, we will have **a private meeting with, and presentation by, theatre architect Nicholas Thompson of the Arts Team of RHWL**, creator of the schemes for the renovations of London Coliseum, as well as the Prince Edward and Prince of Wales theatres.

7 PM: Guests will depart the headquarters hotel (Royal Horseguards) and take a guided walk through the Whitehall Government District, the Royal Horseguards Parade Grounds and Gardens, and past the Pall Mall private club mansions to:

7:30 PM: **3 course dinner, with unlimited soft drinks and house wine, in a private, historic room of The Reform Club, one of London's most revered private clubs**, located in an 1841 building of rare beauty and major architectural significance. Gentlemen are asked to wear jacket and tie. Woman should wear smart casual.

John Earle, former Director of the Theatres Trust will be our guests of honor and will give us an overview of the West End of yesterday, today, and the future.

Saturday July 31, 2004

9 AM: Private, luxury coaches will depart the headquarters hotel (Royal Horseguards). Guests not staying at this hotel will be asked to arrive at the Royal Horseguards before the scheduled time of departure.

Accompanied by a Blue-Badge London Expert, we will have a full-day private, luxury coach tour of many of London's most interesting neighborhoods, including London's famous Portobello Road Market.

During our full day coach tour: Depending on their availability and/or rehearsal schedules, we will visit:

Royal Albert Hall, The Portobello Road Electric Cinema, one of London's oldest.

Select cinemas and motion picture palaces.

For **lunch**, guests will be introduced to the locations of a number of restaurants, within a short walking distance of each other, **along the main street of an interesting neighborhood near one of our theatre visits**. Guests will dine, on their own, at the restaurant of their choice.

Our conference will end at 5 PM.

Sunday August 1, 2004

Hotel check-out.

Approx. 8 AM: **Guests who have booked their departure on BA Flight #67, departing Heathrow for Philadelphia at 11:10 AM, and guests who have booked any other flight departing Heathrow after 11 AM, will be met at the Royal Horseguards Hotel by a private, luxury coach for a complimentary transfer to their respective Heathrow terminals.** *(Included in the cost of the program.)*

Cost of the Program:

Cost per person: \$2435, assuming a minimum of 30 paying guests. The entire scheduled program with 6 nights at the 5 star (air conditioned) Royal Horseguards Hotel, private/luxury coach transfers round trip between hotel and Heathrow Airport (as scheduled); full day private/luxury coach Central London tour – with theatre visits along the way; full day private/luxury coach London Neighborhood tour – with theatre visits along the way; “Welcome” Dinner (cash bar) at Simpson’s in the Strand, “Farewell” Dinner at the historic Reform Club (with unlimited house wines, soft drinks, tax and gratuities), all scheduled private meetings/discussions/theatre visits/theatre tours, all gratuities, all tour guide and tour director services, all planning and administrative costs and fees. *(Not inclusive of air fare To/From London)*

For Single Occupancy, please add \$705 to the cost of the program.

For upgraded Deluxe Rooms, which are larger, face the Thames and the London Eye Millennium Wheel, and are each decorated by a different world-renown interior decorator, please add \$200 per person (\$400 single occupancy), to the cost of the program.

NOTE: While we normally move heaven and earth **not** to make changes to the cost of a program after it is has been set, the value of the dollar is one element over which we have no control. For many years, the dollar vs. the British Pound has either changed little, or the Dollar has gotten stronger. In the past few months, the value of the dollar had weakened quite drastically – approximately 32% against the Euro and 15% against the Pound. We hope the value of the dollar will stabilize, but **should the value of the dollar weaken further between now and June 1st, V.I.P. Tours of New York will have no choice but to add a surcharge. Even with a disastrous slide in the value of the dollar, the per person increase in cost should be no more than \$100.**

For Guests who choose to book accommodations on their own:

Cost per person, without hotel: \$1635.

All coach departures will be prompt and will be from the Royal Horseguards, which is located at the southern end of Theatreland, between Trafalgar Square/CharingCross/The Strand and the Thames, near the Embankment Underground Station.

When comparing hotels, registrants should make sure that their hotel rate includes VAT (17.5% tax) and booking fees. Guests should remember that the dollar has grown so weak that rates that seem reasonable in British Pounds Sterling become much more expensive when converted to dollars (by almost two fold).

Most hotels and Bed and Breakfasts in London do not offer air conditioned rooms. Air conditioning is not always essential during London summers, however for two or three weeks each summer, air conditioning is quite necessary for the comfort of most Americans!

Guests should inquire about the hotel’s breakfast policy (continental breakfast, full English breakfast, or no breakfast at all).

Before booking an accommodation, we suggest that guests check a map and determine the walking distance between the hotel and the nearest Underground station, and the length of time spent on the Underground (with the necessary transfers) to get to pre-designated West End locations (for theatre visits) by approximately 9 AM, or to the Royal Horseguards (for coach departures) by 8 - 9 AM.

The inclusive cost of this tour, utilizing the Royal Horseguards, includes a fully air conditioned five star hotel, large Breakfast Buffet daily, VAT (17.5%), and complimentary private, luxury coach round trip transfers between the hotel and Heathrow.