

7-Day London Itinerary: Crown Jewels, Borough Market & the West End

London doesn't need reinventing to make a trip worth planning around — this week-long loop keeps one well-placed base near Tower Bridge and uses it to reach everything that makes the city worth a return visit (or a first one): the Crown Jewels, Westminster's royal set-pieces, Borough Market's stalls, and a full day inside the real Harry Potter sets at Warner Bros. Studio Tour. No day here tries to cram in more than one or two real things, on purpose.

DURATION

7 Days

BEST TIME TO GO

May, June & September

mild weather, fewer crowds

FROM

\$1,950 USD / person

for 2 people, excl. flights

Day 1

Arrival in London

Land in London and head straight to a base by Tower Bridge, where the city's skyline does most of the work on a first evening.

Private Transfer — Heathrow Airport (LHR) to Tower of London

~45–60 minutes · Fixed rate from £135 (~\$170 USD) per vehicle (Mercedes E-Class), up to 3 people

MILE5 runs a TfL-licensed, fixed-fare fleet out of Heathrow with flight tracking, meet-and-greet in arrivals, and 60 minutes of complimentary waiting built in — no meter, no surge pricing after a long-haul flight.

MILE5 +44 20 8004 5555 · mile5.co.uk

Overnight — citizenM Tower of London

From approx. £180–250 GBP (~\$230–320 USD) / night, for 2 people

A design-forward boutique hotel two minutes' walk from the Tower of London and Tower Bridge, with a 24-hour lobby bar and rooftop terrace looking straight across at The Shard — the base for the whole week.

citizenM Tower of London +44 20 3519 4830 · citizenm.com

Tower Bridge & the Thames, Evening

~1 hour · Free

Walk the five minutes from the hotel down to Tower Bridge for your first look at it lit up after dark, with the Tower of London's floodlit walls on one side and the glass spike of The Shard on the other — the easiest possible first evening.

Dinner near Tower Bridge

Est. \$35–55 USD / person

On your own — Bermondsey Street and the lanes around Tower Bridge run from traditional pubs to newer small-plates kitchens; reservations aren't usually needed on a first night.

Day 2

Westminster & Royal London

Westminster's landmarks — the Abbey, Big Ben, and Buckingham Palace — take the morning, then an afternoon river cruise shows the same skyline from the water.

Westminster Abbey Guided Walking Tour

~2 hours · £20 (~\$25 USD)/person guide fee + £30 (~\$38 USD)/person Abbey admission

A Blue Badge guide leads a skip-the-line walk through Westminster Abbey's Poets' Corner, Coronation Chair, and royal tombs, then out past Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament — London's original walking-tour company has run this route since 1958.

London Walks +44 20 7624 3978 · walks.com

Buckingham Palace & St James's Park

~1.5 hours · Free (Changing the Guard subject to schedule)

Walk from Westminster through St James's Park to Buckingham Palace — check the Changing the Guard schedule before you go, since it doesn't run daily outside peak season.

Thames River Cruise, Westminster to Tower

40 minutes · From £15.50 (~\$20 USD) / person

A narrated circular sightseeing cruise past the London Eye, Big Ben, St Paul's, and Tower Bridge — the easiest way to see the whole riverfront from the water in under an hour.

London Eye River Cruise · londoneye.com

Dinner in Covent Garden

Est. \$30–50 USD / person

On your own — Covent Garden's piazza and side streets have a dense cluster of options a short Tube ride from the hotel.

Day 3

Tower of London & Borough Market

The Tower of London gets a full morning, then Borough Market and the walk across the Millennium Bridge fill the afternoon.

Tower of London & Crown Jewels

~3 hours · £37 (~\$47 USD) / person

A Yeoman Warder-led tour covers the White Tower, the Crown Jewels, and centuries of royal history right outside your hotel's front door — book online ahead to skip the ticket-office queue.

Historic Royal Palaces · hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london

Borough Market & London Bridge Food Tour

~3 hours · From £76 (~\$97 USD) / person

A small-group walk through Borough Market and Bankside stopping at six stalls and shops for tastings of British classics — cheesemongers, bakers, and a proper meal's worth of food by the end.

Eating Europe London · eatingeurope.com/london

St Paul's Cathedral & Millennium Bridge

~1 hour · Free (interior admission separate)

Walk off lunch with the short riverside stroll from Borough Market across the Millennium Bridge to St Paul's — go late afternoon for the best light on the dome.

Overnight — citizenM Tower of London

From approx. £180–250 GBP (~\$230–320 USD) / night, for 2 people

Third night at the same hotel.

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Day 4

Warner Bros. Studio Tour — The Making of Harry Potter

A full day out of the city center for the real sets, props, and costumes behind all eight Harry Potter films.

Warner Bros. Studio Tour London — The Making of Harry Potter

~3.5–4 hours on-site · From £58.50 (~\$74 USD) / person

Walk through the actual sets, props, and costumes from all eight films, from the Great Hall to Diagon Alley — the shuttle bus from central London adds roughly 45 minutes each way, so plan for most of a day.

Warner Bros. Studio Tour London · wbstudiotour.co.uk

Shuttle Bus — Victoria Coach Station to the Studio Tour

~45–50 minutes each way · Return coach fare bookable with your studio tour ticket

A dedicated shuttle runs from outside Victoria Coach Station straight to the Studio Tour entrance and back — book it in the same checkout as your admission ticket to guarantee a seat.

Dinner in Soho

Est. \$35–55 USD / person

On your own, back in central London — Soho's streets are packed with pre- and post-theatre options if you're catching a West End show afterward.

Overnight — citizenM Tower of London

From approx. £180–250 GBP (~\$230–320 USD) / night, for 2 people

Fourth night at the same hotel.

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Day 5

Greenwich & the Thames, East

A river bus east to Greenwich for the Prime Meridian, a 19th-century tea clipper, and a market for lunch.

Uber Boat by Thames Clippers to Greenwich

~22 minutes from Tower Millennium Pier · From £13.50 (~\$17 USD) / person one-way booked online, £17.70 (~\$22 USD) at the pier

The fastest and most scenic way east — a river bus straight from a pier near the hotel to Greenwich, passing Canary Wharf's skyline en route. Booking the Central & East zone fare online or in the app is cheaper than buying at the pier.

Uber Boat by Thames Clippers · thamesclippers.com

Royal Observatory, Cutty Sark & Greenwich Market

~3 hours · Cutty Sark from £18–22 (~\$23–28 USD) / person; Observatory grounds free, Prime Meridian line paid

Stand on the Prime Meridian, tour the restored 19th-century tea clipper Cutty Sark, and browse the stalls at Greenwich Market — an easy full morning without needing to book anything ahead beyond the Cutty Sark ticket.

Royal Museums Greenwich · rmg.co.uk

Dinner in Greenwich or Back Near the Hotel

Est. \$30–50 USD / person

On your own — either stay in Greenwich for a riverside table or take the river bus back for a table near the hotel.

Overnight — citizenM Tower of London

From approx. £180–250 GBP (~\$230–320 USD) / night, for 2 people

Fifth night at the same hotel.

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Day 6

Free Time — Covent Garden or Oxford Street

~2–3 hours · Free (shopping separate)

Round out the last full day with unhurried time in Covent Garden's piazza or along Oxford Street — both are an easy walk or short Tube ride from the West End.

Overnight — citizenM Tower of London

From approx. £180–250 GBP (~\$230–320 USD) / night, for 2 people

Sixth and final night at the same hotel.