21221 Western Ave., Suite 210 Torrance CA 90501 TEL (310)320-7600 FAX (310)320-8550

# **LONDON & PARIS PLAN**

## Monday 7 July 2003

- Transfer to Glasgow Airport.
- Leave Glasgow for London by air.
- Lunch at a local restaurant.
- Coach for afternoon sightseeing tour of the London. Guide for afternoon sightseeing tour of the London.
- Overnight at the Kensington Close Hotel, dinner at local restaurant.

#### <London>

London is an ancient city whose history greets you at every turn. To gain a sense of its continuity, stand on Waterloo Bridge at sunset. To the east, the great globe of St. Paul's Cathedral glows golden in the fading sunlight as it has since the 17th century, still majestic amid the towers of glass and steel that hem it in. To the west stand the mock-medieval ramparts of Westminster, home to the "Mother of Parliaments," which has met here or hereabouts since the 1250s. Past them both snakes the swift, dark Thames, as it flowed past the first Roman settlement here nearly 2,000 years ago.

For much of its history, innumerable epigrams have been coined about London by both her enthusiasts and detractors. The great 18th-century writer and wit Samuel Johnson said that a man who is tired of London is tired of life. Oliver Wendell Holmes said, "No person can be said to know London. The most that anyone can claim is that he knows something of it." Simply stated, London is one of the most interesting places on earth. There is no other place like it in its agglomeration of architectural sins and sudden intervention of almost rural sights, in its medley of styles, in its mixture of the green loveliness of parks and the modern gleam of neon. Thankfully, the old London of Queen Anne and Georgian architecture can still be discovered under the hasty routine of later additions.

Today, that sense of modernity is stronger than ever. Everyone is talking about swinging-again London. It is still, as Vanity Fair proclaimed, "the coolest, hottest city in the world." Millennium fever left its trophies -- a panoply of new buildings. The boom

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economy of the mid-'90s helped the city's art, style, fashion, and dining scenes make headlines around the world. London's chefs have become superstars; its fashion designers have conquered Paris; avant-garde artists have made waves; the city's raging after-hours scene is packed; and the theater continues its tradition of radical, shocking productions, which barely seem to turn most hairs. Even Shakespeare embraces cool: the Bard's own, reborn Globe -- the fabled "wooden O" -- is functioning brilliantly on the bank of the Thames just 200 yards from where it stood in the 16th century; when the troupe here presented Two Gentlemen of Verona, cast members were costumed in Ray-Ban sunglasses and sneakers.





## Tuesday 8 July 2003

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Train (Eurostar) from Waterloo Station to Paris (Nord Station).
- Lunch on board. (Box Lunch)
- Arrive in Paris.
- Coach for sightseeing tour of Paris.
- Overnight at the Hotel Mercure La Defense Paris.
- Dinner at local restaurant

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#### <Eurostar>





Eurostar<sup>TM</sup> is the high-speed rail service directly linking the UK to France and Belgium via the Channel Tunnel. It began operating in 1994, providing city centre to city centre services. Eurostar<sup>TM</sup>, which is a European business, is operated jointly by Eurostar (U.K.) Ltd (EUKL), SNCF and SNCB. The commercial direction, policy and service development for the overall Eurostar<sup>TM</sup> business is determined by Eurostar Group. Since starting operations in November 1994, Eurostar<sup>TM</sup> has more than doubled the total number of passengers travelling by air or rail between London and Paris/Brussels. By 30 December 2001, Eurostar<sup>TM</sup> had carried 40 million people since operations were launched.

#### <Paris>

Paris intrigues, astonishes, provokes, overwhelms...and gets under your skin. The City of Light is the apex of architectural beauty, artistic expression, and culinary delight, and it knows it. As drop-dead arrogant as the Arc de Triomphe, as disarmingly quaint as a lace-curtain bistro, it seduces newcomers with a Latin-lover style -- and its subtle siren song invites unhurried exploration of its picture-perfect streets.

Paris is a city of vast, noble perspectives and intimate, ramshackle streets, of formal espaces vertes (green open spaces) and of quiet squares. This combination of the pompous and the private is one of the secrets of its perennial pull. Another is its size. Paris is relatively small as capitals go, with distances between many of its major sights and museums invariably walkable.

For the first-timer there will always be several must-dos at the top of the list, but a visit to Paris will never be quite as simple as a quick look at Notre-Dame, the Louvre, and the Eiffel Tower. You'll discover that around every corner, down every ruelle (little street) lies a resonance-in-wait.

You can stand on the rue du Faubourg St-Honoré at the very spot Edmond Rostand set Ragueneau's pastry shop in Cyrano de Bergerac. You can read the letters of Madame de Sévigné in her actual hôtel particulier, or private mansion, now the Musée Carnavalet. You can breathe in the fumes of hubris before the extravagant onyx tomb Napoléon designed for himself. You can gaze through the gates at the school where Voltaire honed his wit and lay a garland on Oscar Wilde's poignant grave at Père Lachaise.

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If this is your first trip, there's no harm in taking a guided tour of the city -- a perfectly good introduction that will help you get your bearings and provide you with a general impression before you return to explore at leisure the sights that particularly interest you.

By the time you have explored the city, you should not only have had your cultural fill but be downright exhausted and hungry, too.



## Wednesday 9 July 2003 Thursday 10 July 2003

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Full day free at leisure by your own activities.
- Optional tours are available from Paris.
- Lunch & Dinner by your own.
- Overnight at the Hotel Mercure La Defense Paris.

## **Friday 11 July 2003**

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Coach transfer to Charles De Gualle Airport.
- Leaving Paris for U.S.A..

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## (TOUR FARE ESTIMATE)

Tour fare : \$985.00 / person Single supplement : \$300.00 / person

## <Including>

- \*Accommodation 4 nights double occupancy
- \*Transportation (indicated in above itinerary)
- \*Air ticket (Glasgow to London)
- \*Train (Eurostar) ticket (London to Paris)
- \*Meals (indicated in above itinerary: 4 Breakfast / 2 Lunch / 2 Dinner
- \*English speaking tour guide
- \*Tax and gratuity

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