



# TourMagination

discovery+community

## Embodying Truth: Church & Theatre in London Tour

July 13-22, 2019

Leaders: Allan & Marilyn Rudy-Froese



Trafalgar Square. Photo credit: Travis Simon.



Actors performing The Tempest by William Shakespeare. Photo credit: Kirk Olson

*Both theatre artists and ministers in the church seek to enact truth through words, body language, and actions. Church “performances” highlight heavenly ideals through lofty music, a holy meal, and sacred rituals. Theatre “gatherings” often focus on down-to-earth stories full of debauchery, intrigue, and humour. London is a prime location to see, hear, and touch the sometimes rosy, sometimes rocky relationship between the church and the theatre over the centuries from Shakespeare’s time to modern day. Observe and discuss glimpses of the sacred and profane as you attend church services, plays, and musical performances, as well as tour museums, art galleries, and other culturally significant sites.*

## Itinerary

### **Saturday, July 13 London**

Arrive in London and head to your hotel. Begin your London adventure with an informative tour of Westminster Abbey. Then hear the Westminster Abbey boys’ choir sing the Anglican liturgy at an Evensong service. Later, get better acquainted with your tour leaders and travel companions during a welcome dinner at the hotel.

### **Sunday, July 14**

Attend a Sunday morning service at Bloomsbury Baptist Church, followed by a luncheon and time of fellowship with the Reverend Simon. Later, see some of London’s notable sites from a Hop On Hop Off Bus—including Buckingham Palace, Big Ben and the House of Parliament, the London Eye, London Bridge, Trafalgar Square, and many more! Return to the hotel to relax for the evening, or explore the city further on your own.

### **Monday, July 15**

After breakfast, Allan will stimulate thinking and conversation with a talk entitled Theatre & Church: Strange Bedfellows. A tour of the Museum of London will help us understand this city’s history and people. In every generation, people are located in a particular place and time—which influences their thinking and actions. As we walk through the museum, we’ll think about the context of historic events. For instance, we’ll consider how the Black Plague impacted people’s faith. Tour Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre, a playhouse built to be just like Shakespeare’s original Elizabethan venue. During time with a local actor, try theatre exercises that will help us experience performance in a new way. Tonight, see a live performance on the Globe Theatre mainstage.

### **Tuesday, July 16**

Begin your day with a morning reflection and a talk given by Allan. Take a guided tour of St. Paul’s Cathedral, an iconic 17<sup>th</sup> century Anglican house of worship that rests on the highest point in the city. At noon, join a group to pray the Litany of Reconciliation—a prayer that reminds us that when we intercede for the problems of the world, we must begin by acknowledging the roots of those problems within ourselves. Later, tour one of the most prominent performing arts venues in the world. The National Theatre puts on many celebrated works each season, from classical Shakespeare to contemporary plays and everything in between.

### Wednesday, July 17

Following an engaging session with Allan and an actor from the National Theatre, enjoy an afternoon matinee performance. During free time this evening, stroll through the city streets, or rest at the hotel.

### Thursday, July 18

Allan will frame the day with another thought-provoking talk and discussion time. Today, explore the city on your own. See more iconic London sites, such as Buckingham Palace or the Tower of London, shop, and find an interesting lunch spot. This evening, revel in the sounds of a concert at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, a stunning Anglican church tucked in the north-east corner of Trafalgar Square.

### Friday, July 19

Travel to the ruins of the Coventry Cathedral, bombed in 1940. Again pray the Litany of Reconciliation—but in a very different context. Here the empty windows and roofless sanctuary remind us of the devastation of war. Reflect on the contrast between embodying faith in the bombed-out ruins instead of the tidy, beautiful St. Paul's Cathedral. This evening attend an Evensong service at the rebuilt Cathedral, if time permits.

### Saturday, July 20

During another discussion time, Allan will guide us as we begin to make sense of what've experienced. Later, we will meet with the Eastside Community Theatre Group. In the evening, enjoy a performance at the Royal Opera House, a well-known performing arts venue in Covent Garden in central London.

### Sunday, July 21

Attend a morning worship service and observe the gathering with new eyes. Later, there will be free time to see anything you missed before a Choral Evensong service at St. Paul's Cathedral. Spend the evening together in community—talking, laughing, worshiping, and reflecting on what we've learned.

### Monday, July 22

Depart for the airport and head home on your individual flights.

#### Fare per person:

CAD: Double Occupancy \$4,427; Single supplement \$1,300

USD: Double Occupancy \$3,405; Single Supplement \$1,000

#### Fare includes

- Hotel accommodations
- Round trip train ticket from London to Coventry
- All entrance fees included in the itinerary
- 1 concert at St. Martins'-in-the-Fields
- 4 theatre performances
- Expert tour leaders & local guides
- All breakfasts, 2 lunches, 1 high tea, 7 dinners
- Gratuities for drivers, guides, and group meals

#### Fare excludes

- International airfare & airport transfers
- Local transit in London (local bus, Tube, etc.)
- 6 lunches, 2 dinners
- Drinks with meals
- Travel medical (out-of-country emergency) and cancellation/interruption insurance

#### Insurance

Travel medical (out-of-country emergency) and cancellation/interruption insurance are not mandatory but are highly recommended.

#### Payments

Rates shown are in effect 05/18. Though every effort is made to maintain established prices, TM reserves the right to adjust prices should it become necessary. The price is guaranteed when paid in full. We accept cheque and credit card payments. Credit card payments are charged a 3% fee.

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