



the
normal
marching
band



ITINERARY DRAFT AS OF DECEMBER 17

[LINK TO MAPS, BUS LISTS, AND OTHER DOCUMENTS](#)

BEFORE THE TRIP

- ✓ Label carry-on bags, checked baggage, and instruments with your name, address, and USA. We also recommend labeling them with the *Normal Marching Band*, in case they are found near the LNYDP events – this will aid in them being returned to our group. If you have a black suitcase, you may want to tie a unique ribbon to a handle, for quick identification.
- ✓ Contact your credit/debit card company to inform them of our travel dates and locations. Note that purchases made on the airplanes (extra food, Wi-Fi, etc.) must be paid by card, not cash. Some credit cards assess an international surcharge.
- ✓ Contact your mobile phone carrier to arrange for international coverage. (This often comes at an expense to your plan.) Note that BAND App messages from the directors will be used for communication during the trip, and they rely on an international data package for delivery. If you are a family member who is staying in the USA, you might adjust your notification settings so that alerts from a different time zone do not wake you up.
- ✓ Make sure you pack shoes, socks, gloves for your marching uniform. Make sure that your concert black is washed (dresses) or dry cleaned (tuxes).
- ✓ Review the itinerary for events that suggest specific packing needs and to determine meal/shopping costs. Daily breakfast is included. Lunches are not included. Dinners are included, either served in the hotel or by using a provided Restaurant Card, which works as a debit card and includes £60, intended to be used for three dinners up to £20 each.
- ✓ Download the latest copy of this itinerary and the maps to your phone before departure, to be used in case you do not have data or wifi access.
- ✓ Store emergency phone numbers in your phone:
Mr. B (815) 370-8730 | Mr. Carter (215) 749-2673 | Mrs. Halsey (309) 862-0135 | Ms. P (309) 310-4435
Our hotel is the Novotel London West in Hammersmith. You should store this somewhere in your phone as well.
- ✓ Use #normalmb for all Instagram posts throughout the trip! We also encourage you to upload your photos to the album in the BAND App.

WHAT TO PACK

- ✓ Your Passport and ID/driver's license are a MUST. Students will receive a neck passport wallet that can be worn in the airports. Be aware of where your passport is at all times! For security purposes, we will collect and secure student's passports upon arrival. They will be returned for the trip home.
- ✓ Travelers are permitted to bring one small personal item (backpack or purse), one carry-on bag, and one checked bag. Note that instruments including trumpets and smaller count as the traveler's carry-on or personal item. (Alto saxophones and larger Instruments will be shipped to London in advance by a freight company.) Some travelers who are not bringing their own carry-on sized instrument may be asked to bring carry-on items like small percussion cases, spare uniform parts, etc. These items will be assigned in advance. Instruments that are not being freighted count as either a carry-on or personal item, in accordance with airline size specifications. Large electronic devices must be accessible and taken out of the bag during the security process. Also, be sure to follow the 3-1-1 rule for liquids. Do not pack reed knives in carry-on baggage – check them instead!
- ✓ Pack one checked bag with good wheels (again, sizes/weights as specified by the airline)
- ✓ Concert black: dresses/shoes should be packed in your checked or carry on bag. Tuxes, shirts, shoes, black socks, bowties must be packed in checked luggage.
- ✓ London Wind Ensemble performers should pack their music folder in their carry-on/backpack. Please do not check this, as we will be unable to replace parts if your luggage is lost.
- ✓ Color Guard should pack their uniforms in their carry-on/personal item backpack! Be careful, as the center of your uniforms are very fragile! (Again, we cannot replace these in London if your luggage is lost.) Your shoes, gloves, headbands can go in your checked luggage.
- ✓ Marching members (all) shoes/socks/gloves should be packed in checked luggage.
- ✓ Pack your phone, charger, headphones, portable power pack in your personal item/backpack. Avoid bringing laptops/large gaming systems. Do you have a power converter for the UK?
- ✓ Pack a neck pillow or something to allow you to sleep on the plane.
- ✓ Pack clothing that is appropriate for all events (outdoor/indoor and casual/formal). Dress for winter and the potential for rain! Pack casual shoes that are good for lots of walking.
- ✓ Pack motion sickness and/or other medicines, as needed.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

ONE DAY BEFORE DEPARTURE

- 12 to 1:30 PM **London Wind Ensemble Rehearsal in NCWHS Band Room**
- 2 to 4 PM **Normal Marching Band Rehearsal at NCWHS**
- 4:00 PM **Final Meeting**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27/SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

DAY OF TRAVEL

Each flight follows the same instructions at different times. Find your flight below, and follow the corresponding instructions that appear after the flight schedule information.

British Airways flight BA 294

Meet at 11:30 AM, **Depart** at 11:45 AM, **Check In** at 2:00 PM, **Flight** departs at 5:00 PM

United Airlines flight UA 920

Meet at 12:00 PM, **Depart** at 12:15 PM, **Check In** at 2:30 PM, **Flight** departs at 5:50 PM

American Airlines flight AA 86

Meet at 12:00 PM, **Depart** at 12:15 PM, **Check In** at 2:30 PM, **Flight** departs at 6:25 PM

American Airlines flight AA 90

Meet at 4:30 PM, **Depart** at 4:45 PM, **Check In** at 7:00 PM, **Flight** departs at 10:00 PM

Meet at NCWHS

Load luggage and instruments on school buses. Buses will be assigned based on the flight and chaperone assignments. Please make sure you have eaten lunch before you depart!

Depart for Airport

You may want to bring snacks in case food vendors at the airport are not yet open. Outside food/drink will not be allowed through the security checkpoint, so you will need to consume these items before checking in at the airport.

Check In at Airport

Check in, check bags/instruments as appropriate. Have your passport readily available. Move through security and on to your departure gate, then **check in with your flight chaperone**. Do not leave your luggage/instrument unattended at any time.

Flight departs for London

Sit in the seat assigned on your boarding pass. Follow flight attendant instructions and only operate devices in airplane mode when allowed. School rules apply when selecting your screen content. (You might want to download content for the trip in advance!) Flights will travel overnight—do your best to get some sleep. There will be meal service en route.

- ✓ Wear your blue London Tour shirt so you are easily identified in airport!
- ✓ Do you have your passport in your neck wallet?
- ✓ Make sure your luggage is clearly marked with your name, address, and cell phone number. We also suggest including "Normal Marching Band" in case it is found as a part of the event.
- ✓ Luggage may not be locked unless the lock is TSA-approved. Follow guidelines for one carry-on and one personal item (3-1-1 liquid rule). This may include assigned percussion items or equipment.
- ✓ Carry on clothing in layers for on the plane. We recommend that you carry on your jacket, toiletries, toothpaste, deodorant, etc.
- ✓ Do you have headphones and a battery pack to be used during the flight?

Arrive in London

Be sure that you have all carry-on items and your **passport** when deplaning. (Did you remember to check the seatback pocket?) **Check in with your flight chaperone upon arrival**. We will move through customs as a group, then proceed to baggage claim. **PASSPORTS WILL BE COLLECTED ONCE YOU HAVE PASSED THROUGH CUSTOMS**. Remember to keep track of any extra assigned equipment (percussion, for example.) Load coaches for the hotel.

Novotel London West

Telephone: 020 8741 1555 (dial 011 44 first, on American phones)

1 Shortlands, London W6 8DR

www.novotellondonwest.co.uk

Upon hotel arrival

Meet in the lobby, store luggage in designated room,

attend group meeting with Mr. B, Ms. P, Mrs. Halsey - Room TBA

You will receive your own LNYDP wallet containing your *Oyster Card* (like a debit card for London's underground and bus network) and *Ticket Restaurant Card* (which includes a balance of £60 intended for three dinners throughout this trip.) Selected parents will stay at the hotel to check in the freight equipment. After the meeting, take the tube with your chaperone to **Westfield London Shopping Center** for lunch and shopping. (*See map of hotel area for directions to the Underground Station. There are two stations in Hammersmith—be sure to go to the one that serves the correct Line.*)

🚇 Take the *Circle Line* or *Hammersmith & City Line* eastbound to *Wood Lane*.

You must tap your Oyster Card each time you board AND when you exit.

3:15 PM Meet chaperones and begin making your way back to the hotel

🚇 Take the *Circle Line* or *Hammersmith & City Line* westbound to *Hammersmith*.

4:00 PM Meet in the hotel lobby, chaperones will handle check in and distribute room keys. Make sure all luggage/instruments/assigned equipment make it to your room.

6:00 PM Dinner in the hotel, in the Champagne Room

6:45 PM Wind Ensemble Percussion: meet in storage room, assemble equipment for rehearsal

7:00 PM Wind Ensemble retrieve instrument/equipment from storage room

7:15 PM Wind Ensemble Rehearsal in the hotel – Champagne Room or as instructed

9:00 PM Lights out/Room Check

Be sure to sleep lots—BIG week ahead!!!


9:30 PM Brief chaperone meeting with Kelli & Angela in our meeting room

For rehearsal, you will need:

- ✓ Instrument with mutes, etc.
 - ✓ Music folder and pencil
 - ✓ All percussion equipment
- We will be sharing wire stands for this rehearsal!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

DAY TWO: TOUR OF LONDON, WIND ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE

- 6:30 to 7:45 AM **Breakfast in the hotel - Champagne Room**
- 8:00 AM **Meet chaperone in the lobby**
Bring Wind Ensemble instruments/equipment
Load coaches for a tour of famous landmarks including Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, the Tower of London, and the Palace of Westminster (home of Parliament and Big Ben)
We will travel on the General London Bus List, but Wind Ens. instruments should be loaded on Bus 1 (woodwinds) and Bus 2 (brass/percussion)
- 12:00 AM **Tour ends in Covent Garden, lunch at leisure**
- 1:30 PM **Concert Performers and staff return to coaches and depart for St. John's, Smith Square (WWs on Bus 1, Brass/Perc Bus 2)**
All other travelers spend time shopping and sightseeing at Covent Garden, Leicester Square, Chinatown (see map of boundaries)
- 1:45 PM **Wind Ensemble performers and staff arrive and offload instruments**
- 2:00 PM **Wind Ensemble Sound Check/Dress Rehearsal**
- 3:00 PM **End of rehearsal, leave instruments at venue, board coaches for hotel**
- 3:00 PM **Those not in the Wind Ensemble meet chaperones at north side of Leicester Square (see map) and travel back to the hotel on the tube**
 *From Leicester Square Station, take Piccadilly Line westbound to Hammersmith*
- 5:00 PM **Dinner in the Champagne Room**
- 6:30 PM **Load Coaches for LNYDP GALA CONCERT at St. John's Smith Square**
Performers wear Concert Black. All other travelers will wear business attire.
- 7:30 PM **Concert Begins! Normal Wind Ensemble in the LNYDP Gala Concert Series**
Go Team Go! Let's be a great audience for all of the other groups!
SPECIAL NOTE: Families who are traveling separately from the NMB may purchase tickets at the door for £15 (fifteen pounds) CASH ONLY
- 10:00 PM **End of Concert** Load instruments/music/percussion in coaches, depart for hotel (Use General London Bus List, all 4 coaches)
- 10:30 PM **Lights out/Room Check as soon as we return to the hotel**
- 10:45 PM **Brief chaperone meeting with Kelli & Angela to talk through the next day**

Everyone will need:

- ✓ \$ for lunch
- ✓ Oyster Card for subway
- ✓ Comfortable shoes

For the Wind Ensemble sound check, you will need:

- ✓ Instrument with mutes, etc.
- ✓ Music folder and pencil
- ✓ All percussion equipment

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30

DAY THREE: HAMPTON COURT PALACE TOUR

- 7:00 AM **Breakfast in Champagne Room**
- 8:45 AM **Meet chaperone in the lobby, remember** to bring your Restaurant Card
- 9:00 AM **Load coaches and depart for Hampton Court**
- 10:00 AM **Arrive at Hampton Court**
A certified Blue Badge Guide will lead us on a tour of the Royal Palace and Gardens.
Lunch at your leisure
There will be time in this afternoon to explore the castle for yourself.
- 3:00 PM **Load Coaches and return to the hotel**
- 5:00 PM **Dinner near the hotel (Use your Ticket Restaurant Card for dinner.)**
Go in groups with chaperones, see map.
- 6:45 PM **Perc. meet in equipment storage room, pick up uniforms, brief rehearsal**
Color Guard meet on balcony (weather permitting)
- 7:30 PM **Brass meet in equipment storage room, pick up uniforms, brief rehearsal**
- 8:15 PM **Woodwinds/banner carriers meet in storage room, pick up uniforms, reh.**
- 9:00 PM **Room check/in rooms for the evening**
- 9:30 PM **Brief chaperone meeting with Kelli & Angela** to talk through the next day

For the day, you will need:

- ✓ Ticket Restaurant Card
- ✓ Motion Sickness Meds
- ✓ Comfortable Shoes
- ✓ Jacket

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

DAY FOUR: RIVER THAMES, TOWER OF LONDON, NMB NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH

- 7:00 AM **Breakfast in Champagne Room**
- 8:15 AM **Meet chaperone in the lobby**
- 8:30 AM **Load Coaches (General List, 4 buses)**
- 9:30 AM **Board motor cruiser at Westminster Pier**
- 10:15 AM **Disembark at Tower Bridge Quay for the short walk to Tower of London**
- 10:30 AM **Join our guide for a tour of the Tower of London, including entrance to the Crown Jewels and the White Tower**
- 12:30 PM **End of visit to Tower of London**
Re-join coach and travel to Cole Drops Yard
Lunch at leisure in Cole Drops Yard/Pancras Square/King's Cross Station area (see map) Be sure to see Platform 9¾ in Kings Cross Station and the *Wicked* Christmas tree in St. Pancras Station! Keep an eye on time—there is some ground to cover, to get from our drop off location to the meeting location.
- 4:30 PM **Meet in front of Kings Cross Station, return to hotel by underground**
(See map for meeting location, red star at the bottom)
From Kings Cross St. Pancras Station, take the Circle Line or the Hammersmith & City Line westbound to Hammersmith
- 6:00 PM **Dinner served in Champagne Room (included in package)**
After dinner, change into your NMB New Year's Eve Bash clothes!
- 9:00 PM **Meet in the lobby and go to the NMB New Year's Eve Party in the hotel!**
Complimentary soft drinks and pizza will be served, and we will all stay at the party for the duration of the event! There will be a brief chaperone meeting during this event.
- 11:00 PM **New Year's Countdown to 11:00 PM, then party concludes**
- 11:15 PM **Room check/in rooms for the evening – big day tomorrow!**

For the day, you will need:

- ✓ Comfortable walking shoes
- ✓ Casual clothes
- ✓ \$ for lunch

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1

DAY FIVE: NMB PERFORMANCE IN THE LNYDP

- 8:00 AM **Breakfast in Champagne Room**
- 9:00 AM **Meet in Lobby, fully dressed in parade attire (hair/guard makeup done)**
Make sure you have all the equipment for the parade with you!
NOTE: Travelers who are not performing in the parade will make their own way to the parade route via underground or bus. You will not reunite with NMB until our return to the hotel later in the day. There is a map of the parade route in the folder, showing the locations of the Underground stations. There are no lines from Hammersmith that serve Charing Cross easily. Plan on allowing plenty of time—the tube will be very busy today.
- 🚇 *If you are planning to watch from early in the parade route, take the Piccadilly Line eastbound from Hammersmith to Green Park (about 7 stops). This is a good option if you bought tickets to watch in Grandstands 1-6.*
- 🚇 *If you are planning to watch from the middle of the parade route, take the Piccadilly Line eastbound from Hammersmith to Piccadilly Circus (about 8 stops). This is a good option if you bought tickets to watch in Grandstands 4-9.*
- 🚇 *If you are planning to watch from near the end of the parade route, take the District Line eastbound from Hammersmith to Westminster (about 9 stops). This is a good option if you bought tickets for Grandstands 10-14 or the VIP Grandstands.*
- 9:30 AM **NMB Performers and staff board coaches, depart for assembly area in Berkeley Square.** See bus lists in folder of maps.
For security reasons, you will be required to wear the LNYDP wristband. **Upon arrival, leave all cases and personal items on the Coach. Keep your phone in the pocket in your bibs/pants.**
The same coach will pick us up after the parade. In case of inclement weather, we may wear additional jackets/outerwear until right before the parade. If that is the case, the parade staff will collect outerwear in large yellow bins and it will be returned to the hotel later in the day. *Please do not turn in valuables or your cell phone with your outerwear.*
Take the official NMB LNYDP Photograph, then warm up for LNYDP.
Restrooms and first aid are available in this area at Berkeley Square.
Eat sack lunch in staging/assembly area.
Sack lunch is provided to performers only, by the LNYDP. Please be extra careful not to spill on your parade uniform!
- 12:00 PM **LNYDP 2025 BEGINS - GO TEAM GO! WE ARE NUMBER 47 IN THE PARADE!**
- 3:30 PM **Parade concludes,** return to the hotel on coaches, change out of uniform, pack uniforms/equipment.
- 5:30 PM **Meet in lobby, travel on tube to Hyde Park Winter Wonderland (see map)**
🚇 *From Hammersmith Station, take Piccadilly Line eastbound to Hyde Park Corner*
Dress warmly as this is an OUTDOOR event. Admission tickets have been provided as part of your package. There are over 150 attractions in the park. Some are free, others will require additional tickets! Many dining options are available. Visit hydeparkwinterwonderland.com for more information.
- ~6:00 PM **Arrive at Hyde Park Winter Wonderland**
- 9:30 PM **Meet at the ICE RINK by the BLUE GATE,** take the tube back to the hotel
🚇 *From Hyde Park Corner Station, take Piccadilly Line westbound to Hammersmith*
- 10:15 PM **Room check/in rooms for the evening**
- 10:30 PM **Brief chaperone meeting with Kelli & Angela** to talk through the next day

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2

DAY SIX: FULL DAY TOUR TO WINDSOR

- 7:00 AM Breakfast in Champagne Suite
- 8:45 AM **Meet chaperone in lobby**, remember to bring your Ticket Restaurant Card
- 9:00 AM Board Coaches for Windsor
- 10:00 AM Arrival at Windsor, our guide will lead us on a walking tour of the town and entrance to the Royal Castle
Lunch at leisure, then time to explore Windsor for yourself.
- 2:00 PM A self-guided tour of the Royal Apartments, followed by a walk of the castle
- 4:00 PM Re-join your coach and return to London
- 5:00 PM Dinner/sightseeing. Use your Ticket Restaurant Card for this!
We will split into groups with chaperones to enjoy this final time.
- 8:00 PM After dinner, return to the hotel for packing and rest
- 9:00 PM **Room check/in** rooms for the evening
- 9:30 PM Brief chaperone meeting with Kelli & Angela to talk through the next day

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3

DAY SEVEN: DAY OF TRAVEL, RETURN TO NORMAL

- 6:30 AM Breakfast in Champagne Suite

Each flight follows the same instructions at different times. Find your flight below, and follow the corresponding instructions that appear after the flight schedule information.

British Airways flight BA 295

Meet at 7:00 AM, **Depart** at 7:30 AM, **Flight** departs at 11:00 AM

American Airlines flight AA 91

Meet at 7:45 AM, **Depart** at 8:15 AM, **Flight** departs at 11:55 AM

United Airlines flight UA 959

Meet at 9:30 AM, **Depart** at 10:00 AM, **Flight** departs at 1:35 PM

American Airlines flight AA 87

Meet at 10:00 AM, **Depart** at 10:30 AM, **Flight** departs at 2:10 PM

Meet your chaperone, check out of your room, bring everything with you, turn in key cards Load luggage and instruments on coaches. Buses will be assigned based on the flight and chaperone assignments. Please make sure you have eaten breakfast before you depart!

Depart for Airport

Once you arrive, check bags/instruments as appropriate. Passports will be returned to you. Have your passport readily available for the security checkpoint. Move through security and on to your departure gate. **Then, check in with your flight chaperone.** Do not leave your luggage/instrument unattended at any time.

Flight departs for Chicago

Sit in your assigned seat, as listed on your boarding pass. Follow flight attendant instructions and only operate devices in airplane mode, when allowed. School rules apply when selecting content on your screen or device. (You might want to download content for the trip in advance!) There will be meal service en route.

Arrive in Chicago

Be sure that you have all carry-on items and your **passport** when deplaning. (Did you remember to check the seatback pocket?) **Check in with your flight chaperone upon arrival.** We will move through customs as a group (you need your passport), then proceed to baggage claim. **Check in with your flight chaperone.** Remember to keep track of any extra assigned equipment (percussion). Load the school buses and depart for Normal. Make sure you take all your luggage instruments with you!

Arrival time at Normal West will be determined by flight time, customs, and traffic. Be sure to communicate about rides as we return to school.

- ✓ Double check your room to make sure you didn't leave anything behind!
- ✓ Do you have your passport in your neck wallet?
- ✓ Luggage may not be locked unless the lock is TSA-approved. Follow guidelines for one carry-on and one personal item (3-1-1 liquid rule).
- ✓ Carry on clothing in layers.
- ✓ Do you have headphones and a battery pack?

WELCOME HOME!!!

CONGRATULATIONS ON A FANTASTIC LONDON TOUR!!!