INTRODUCTION

I thought it would be useful to send you a consolidated schedule of our "unstructured time" (meaning: the time that we don't have other activities scheduled), as well as recommendations and links for what you might want to do with that time.
→ *It is our recommendation to have your unstructured time planned before you leave - there is SO MUCH to see and do, it is in your best interest to have a plan. This should be student-led and student-centered. Students, start talking with your roommates and friends!*

We are currently working on a “Chaperone Organizer” to help with this planning. We will share that with everyone in a few weeks after everyone has had a chance to look through all of the options!

Please note, most of the museums in London are free, but you will see there are several things that have additional entry fees. Additionally, some sights (Westminster Abbey, London Eye, War Rooms, etc.) have timed entry tickets that should be bought ahead of time. Hopefully this will help with that planning.

These recommendations are in no particular order, just how I thought of them. :)
I absolutely LOVE talking about things to do in London, so if you have questions or need recommendations, please ask!

"UNSTRUCTURED TIME" SCHEDULE

Monday, Dec. 28 - TBD depending on orientation, check-in, group walking tour, etc. - most of us will have a LARGE chunk of time on this day. It is best to power through the sleepiness so you don’t mess up your sleep schedule, so plan a lot of things!

Tuesday, Dec. 29 - 5:00pm-10:30pm

Wednesday, Dec. 30 - Orchestra students: 12:30pm-2:30pm, Band students and chaperones: 12:30pm-5:30pm

Thursday, Dec. 31 - Chaperones: after you drop your students at dinner at the hotel, you will be free for NYE in London.
ALL BAND AND ORCHESTRA STUDENTS WILL ATTEND THE NYE Party in the hotel.

Friday, Jan. 1 - After parade-10:30pm (it is difficult to predict when we will get back to the hotel after the parade, but likely not before 4:00pm. As soon as we have our parade schedule, we will share it.)

Saturday, Jan. 2 - 1:00pm-7:15pm. This is the largest chunk of free time you will have in London. There are several outstanding walking tours recommended in your itinerary, but if you have your sights on some of the other museums/attractions, this may be a time to do those. Walking tours might be best used on New Year's Day.

The LNYDP provides downloadable walking tours that are a great option for daylight unstructured time!

SIGHTS AND ATTRACTIONS				
Location with Link	**Description**	**Hours**	**Price**	**Open NYD?**
London Eye	See London from this spectacular ferris wheel. This does require a ticket and has a specific entry time associated with it. Get your tickets early to avoid waiting in usually-long lines.	Runs until 6:00pm most nights.	£32- £36 depending on the date	Yes
Jack the Ripper Tour	We used this company when we traveled to London in 2023 - these tours are led by Blue Badge guides and are therefore more reputable than some other tours.	Tours begin at 7:30pm	£20 adult £15 kids	Yes
Shakespeare's Globe Theater	While there are no productions happening at this time of year (it's an open-air theater), they have several different tours available. These DO require a purchased ticket; there are very limited time slots for each tour, so I recommended ordering before we leave for London.	Tour times vary	£31 adult £14 under 16	NO
Borough Market	Currently having a big moment on social media for its amazing food options. Just a short walk from Shakespeare's Globe.	Closed Mondays; 10:00am - 5:00pm	No entry fee, food costs vary	NO
Sky Garden	Sky Garden is London's highest public garden, spanning three storeys, 155 metres (508ft) above the city. Entry is free, but you need	Mon – Fri: 10:00am - 6:00pm Sat, Sun & Bank Holidays:	FREE	???

	to pre-book entry (aka get your tickets ahead of time).	11:00am - 9:00pm		
Tower Bridge Tour	Explore inside Tower Bridge. Take in stunning panoramic views from the High-Level Walkways and experience the thrill of the Glass Floors. Your visit also includes the magnificent Victorian Engine Rooms that once powered Bridge Lifts.	9:30am - 6:00pm most days	£18	???
Platform 9 and 3/4	Located in the back of King's Cross Station. Use your Oyster Card to get to King's Cross, then follow the signs to the Rail Station and walk to the back.	When the tube station is open.	FREE	Yes
Portobello Road in Nottinghill	Portobello is home to one of the most famous and historical street markets in the world and from that a rich community of diversity and culture which offers a truly unique and special visit every time.	10:00am - 5:00pm most days	No entry fee, food/goods costs vary	NO
Hyde Park	Originally hunting grounds for Henry VIII, it is now one of the biggest public parks in London. It also contains a beautiful Princess Diana Memorial. I do not know for sure, but I would guess it will be decorated for the holidays.	5:00am - midnight most days	FREE	Yes
Richmond (Ted Lasso)	About 30 minutes from our hotel by Tube, see all of the sights and sound of the AppleTV+ series!	Varies	Tours with tour guides cost money, but you can walk around on your own!	Varies
ART MUSEUMS AND EXPERIENCES				
Location with Link	**Description**	**Hours**	**Price**	**Open on NYD?**

National Gallery	This is a massive art museum with works of art with many, many famous works.	10:00am - 6:00pm daily	FREE	NO
Tate Modern Art Museum	Modern art museum focusing on work of the 20th century to the present. Has Andy WARHOL's Marilyn Monroe portraits & screenprints AND soupcans…... Located in an old electricity plant, the building is just as amazing as the art!	Last entry 5:00pm	FREE	Yes
Victoria and Albert Museum	Huge collection dedicated to design. They have a huge hall of casts of hundreds of famous sculptures which is amazing. There is currently a Freddie Mercury (of Queen) exhibit.	10:00am - 5:45pm daily	FREE	Yes
MOCO London	A new modern art museum in London. This museum has a small but excellent collection: Banksy, Warhol, and several others.	10:00am - 5:00pm daily	Starting at £16.90	Yes
Show on the West End TKTS	Whether it is a musical or a classic play, there are many options at all different price points. TKTS is the place for discounted day-of tickets	Show times vary	Varies	Yes
Handel and Hendrix Museum	Museum in Mayfair, London, dedicated to the lives and works of the German-born British Baroque composer George Frideric Handel and the American rock singer-guitarist Jimi Hendrix, who lived at 25 and 23 Brook Street respectively.	Closed Mondays and Tuesdays; 10:00am - 5:00pm	£14.50 adult £5 kids	NO

Royal Opera Hall	There are a few shows going on at the Hall, or you can get a tour of the amazing building!	Show and tour times vary	Varies	Yes (some)
MUSEUMS AND CHURCHES				
Location with Link	**Description**	**Hours**	**Price**	**Open on NYD?**
Natural History Museum	Massive natural history museum that has dinosaurs, dodos, and everything in between.	Last entry is 4:30pm	FREE	Yes
British Museum	See all of the amazing artifacts from thousands of years of global history (including mummies, the Rosetta Stone, Sutton Hoo ancient ship). The Bayeux Tapestry is currently on loan to the BM (sold out, unfortunately), but I have heard that this is making the museum VERY busy, which might be worth considering.	10:00am - 5:00pm Daily; Friday 8:30pm closing time	FREE	Yes
British Library	The national library of the United Kingdom. Based in London, it is one of the largest libraries in the world, with an estimated collection of over 200 million items from multiple countries. The “Treasures Collection” is of particular note.	Mon – Thurs: 9:30am - 10:00pm Friday: 9:30am - 6:00pm Saturday 9:30am - 5:00pm Sunday 11:00am - 5:00pm	FREE	???
St. Paul's Cathedral	Designed by Sir Christopher Wren and built after the Great Fire of London in 1666. You can attend a service/Evensong (FREE), or tour the building and go to the top of the dome (requires an entry fee; I recommend pre-booking).	Last entry at 4:30pm	£27 adult £10.50 kids	Yes (Evensong service at 5pm)

Westminster Abbey	This church is the site of coronations and burials dating back to William the Conqueror's coronation in 1066. Beautiful architecture and amazing history. This DOES require an entry fee and a specific ticket time.	Timed entry tickets, times vary by date and ticket type.	£32 adult £29 kids	Yes (Evensong service at 5pm)
Churchill War Rooms	Top secret corridors under the city of London where British officials operated during WWII. This DOES have an admission price and specific entry times.	Timed entry tickets, times vary by date and ticket type.	£34 adult £17 kids (age 5-15)	Yes
SHOPPING				
Location with Link	**Description**	**Hours**	**Price**	**Open on NYD?**
Harrods	Located at Knightsbridge, Europe's largest luxury department store. Shop luxury items or visit one of the many restaurants for lunch!	Mon-Sat: 9:00am-10:pm Sunday: 11:30am-6:00pm	Varies	???
Piccadilly Circus	London's Times Square. Piccadilly Circus is a famous road junction and landmark in London's West End, where several of the city's most well-known streets meet. It's a lively spot that attracts visitors looking to experience its entertainment, dining, and nightlife with easy access to Soho, Regent Street and Trafalgar Square.	The "Circus" (aka circle) is always open because it's an intersection. Shops, etc. opening times will vary.	No cost to visit the Circus, but lots of shopping to do!	Yes, but shops will vary.
Covent Garden	We will stop here at the end of our panoramic tour. Shops and restaurants, plus tons of street performers of all varieties!	Varies	Varies	Varies
Leicester Square	Known for its entertainment and shopping, this area has the world's largest M&M store and a LEGO store	The "Square" is open because it's an area of town, not a specific	Varies	Varies

	nearby. Catch a West End show, or eat in nearby Chinatown	place. Shops, etc. opening times will vary.		
Oxford Street	The busiest shopping street in the world and home of Selfridges Department Store.	Varies	Varies	Varies