



**ACTIVE  
TRAVEL**  
for Cultural  
Explorers

# London

## *The African Diaspora*

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION

May 22-30, 2025

Other dates available upon request



# ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

## Dear Alumni and Friends,

London holds some of the most significant moments in Black British history. Join us on this enriching seven-night program that shines a light on Britain's Black history and beyond. From your base in the chic neighborhood of Kensington, venture out on specially designed tours that showcase the capital city through the lens of London's rich global and local Black history.

Together, let's delve deep into the fascinating and varied African and Caribbean history hidden in public spaces and learn about their meaning. Explore the valuable contributions and achievements of remarkable individuals, such as Paul Robeson and Phillis Wheatley, and discover how these key figures and Black communities helped inform London's culture and way of life. Witness iconic sites, including Trafalgar Square, Soho and Brixton Market, viewing these landmarks through the African-Caribbean perspective. See art illustrating the Black presence at the National Gallery, and discuss the Black British and US Civil Rights movements. Slow down to enjoy dinner and a jazz show at a popular Soho venue, and indulge in plenty of free time to discover the city at your own pace.

This exceptional program has been thoughtfully designed with educational enrichment from expert guides and lecturers. It also offers you the security, ease and value of group travel with plentiful opportunities for independent exploration. You'll appreciate the camaraderie with other curious travelers and make your own discoveries during free time.

Sincerely,

Amy Eichhorst

Associate Vice President, Alumni and Donor Relations, University of Maryland  
Executive Director, University of Maryland Alumni Association

**Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @TravelingTerps for more information!**

### UNESCO World Heritage

1. Tower of London
2. Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey



Tower of London



Westminster Abbey





# A World of Discovery



Black histories are a vital part of London's story, reaching back hundreds of years. Embark on this important journey that charts the story of London's Black history and explores the vital connections between the past and present. From politicians to writers and musicians, learn about pioneering Black figures and their contributions to London life. Come away with an in-depth history of the African relationship with London.

Top: Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament  
Above: Soho (Visit Britain/Sam Barker)  
Cover: Nelson Mandela monument, Parliament Square  
Mail panel: Cultural mural | Trafalgar Square

## Inspiring Moments



- Learn about valuable contributions and achievements of figures within **London's African diaspora community**.
- Uncover 2,000 years of **Black history** in London's oldest areas.
- Tour the celebrated **National Gallery**, witnessing works of art illustrating the Black presence.
- Discuss the activities, social struggles and political events within the **Black British and US Civil Rights Movements**.
- Learn how individuals of **African and African-Caribbean** descent helped shape London's culture.
- Gain insight into **Black luminaries**, including Frederick Douglass, Paul Robeson, Phillis Wheatley and more.
- Experience two **UNESCO World Heritage sites**.



National Gallery

## Day 1 | In Transit

Depart gateway city for London, England. 🌐

## Day 2 | London, England

Touch down in London, transfer 🚗 and check in to your hotel.

**Welcome to London!** Join your Travel Director for a walk through the area around your hotel. The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea is home to many inviting restaurants and shops. Kick off your adventure tonight at a Welcome Reception and Welcome Dinner.

## Day 3 | London

**Enrichment: Black British Civil Rights.**

**London's Black History.** Uncover 2,000 years of history during an immersive panoramic tour. While passing London's celebrated attractions, including the Tower of London, Trafalgar Square, Piccadilly Circus and other landmarks, your guide shares valuable insights, allowing you to view these famed sites through the Black British perspective. See spaces integral to London's Black communities, and learn about prominent historical figures who contributed to the city's culture, including Frederick Douglass, the British Black Panthers, Nelson Mandela and the Fisk Jubilee Singers.

**Free Time:** Spend the remainder of the day at leisure, exploring London at your own pace. Gather with your group for dinner at a local pub.

## Day 4 | London

**Black Images in the National Gallery.** Join an expert to learn about works of art illustrating the Black presence in London from the 15th to the 19th centuries. The informative tour examines why the images are in the National Gallery and what the art means to us today. Discuss the morning over lunch.

**Black History of Trafalgar Square.**

Commissioned by King George IV, Trafalgar Square has been the center of public life in London since the 13th century. It is packed with galleries, statues, monuments and historic buildings, including the National Gallery, and the famous square has encountered a host of celebrations, political demonstrations and community gatherings. Despite the popularity of Trafalgar Square, few people know that it also holds a rich, often overlooked history.



Right: *The Bronze Woman, England's first public statue of a Black woman*





Tower Bridge

Join your local guide to delve into the links between the African, Indian and Caribbean communities and learn why their stories remain untold.

### Day 5 | London

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**Enrichment:** *James Baldwin, Frederick Douglass & Phillis Wheatley in London.*

**Secrets of Soho.** While strolling between Soho Square and Russell Square, your expert guide shares insight into hundreds of years of African-Caribbean history. Discuss key events and important figures such as Marcus Garvey, Paul Robeson and Dr. Ivan Van Sertima.

**Free Time:** Explore this wonderful city at your leisure. Perhaps visit the British Museum or use your Oyster card to travel further.

### Day 6 | London

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**Black Cultural Archives & Brixton.** The unrivaled Black Cultural Archives is a national heritage center founded by activist Len Garrison in 1981. It is host to an extensive collection that celebrates and documents

the history and culture of people of African and Caribbean descent in Britain. Today also features a guided walk through Brixton, which has been shaped by the social and political tensions that took place here. Today, it's a hub of activity where market stalls sell everything from coffee to jewelry and Afro-Caribbean cuisine.

**An Evening of Jazz.** Delight in a special evening at a popular Soho jazz venue.

### Day 7 | London

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**Thames Boat Cruise.** Encounter the sights of London from a different perspective as you cruise the River Thames. Witness Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, the Tower of London, the London Eye and the Tower Bridge.

**London, Sugar & Slavery at Docklands Museum.** The unique Museum of London Docklands is housed in a converted sugar warehouse and features a notable, permanent exhibit about the transatlantic slave trade.

*Tony Warner, author Black History Walks Vol 1*

Brixton





The “London, Sugar & Slavery” exhibit hosts a variety of art, film, traditional exhibit panels and interactive screens that reveal how slavery shaped London’s economy from the 17th century onward.

## Day 8 | London

**Enrichment: Contemporary London, Black Culture.**

**St Pauls/Bank.** Travel by Tube to one of London’s oldest areas. On a walking tour, see St Paul’s Cathedral, known for its splendid dome, and the Roman Amphitheatre that was discovered in 1988. Your guide shares facts about the Black presence in London and how these Black communities contributed to the city’s way of life and culture.

**Free Time:** A free afternoon presents time to visit the Tower of London, Churchill’s War Rooms or the Victoria & Albert Museum. Tonight, celebrate your time together at a Farewell Reception and Farewell Dinner.

## Day 9 | In Transit

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for the return flight to your gateway city.

**Note:** Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

Flights and transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

## ACTIVE TRAVEL

This **Active Program** is designed for people who are in good health and can comfortably participate in a demanding daily schedule of physical activities. For more details, please call or visit our website.

### Excursions on this program require:

- walking distances of up to 3 miles
- walking on cobblestones and uneven surfaces, including going up/down stairs in London’s subway system
- getting on/off motor coaches, boats and/or trains

## Included Features



### Accommodations (with baggage handling)

- **7 nights** in London, United Kingdom, at the first-class Radisson Blu Edwardian Vanderbilt.

### Extensive Meal Program

- 7 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 4 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.

### Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **Small group:** Sized just right at 28 guests.
- **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
- **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- Free time to pursue your individual interests.
- **AHI Connects | Local immersion.**
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- **Oyster transit card** for included excursions and exploring at your leisure.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.

St Paul’s Cathedral





## Accommodations



### Radisson Blu Edwardian Vanderbilt | London



This historic property in the heart of London provides the ideal base to enjoy the sights and attractions of this vibrant city. Restaurants, shops and cafes are just an easy stroll from the hotel. Savor a hearty breakfast buffet each morning. The on-site Leicester Square Kitchen offers a range of international and Mexican dishes and the art deco-inspired lounge is an ideal spot for conversing with friends. Comfortable, inviting guest rooms feature modern designs and are fully equipped with thoughtful amenities for a truly relaxing stay. Enjoy a fitness center and complimentary Wi-Fi.



# Reserve your trip today!

To book your journey,  
please call our AHI Travel Experts  
at **800-323-7373** or  
visit **maryla.ahitravel.com**.

## Program Dates

### Travel dates †

**May 22-30, 2025**

† Travel dates include any overnights required for international travel. These dates may vary depending on air schedules.

### Tour dates\*

**May 23-30, 2025**

\* Tour dates begin on the scheduled arrival date at your destination and end on the scheduled departure date from your destination.

## Land Program

**Full Price** **\$4,545**

**Special Savings** **\$750**

**Early Booking Special Price\*** **\$3,795**

\*Early Booking Special Price valid if booked by date on address panel and paid in full at booking. If you pay only your deposit by early booking date, you still save \$250 per person.

#### **VAT is an additional \$395 per person.**

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).

Special offers, promotions and discounts cannot be combined.

Single accommodations are an additional \$1,295 (limited availability).

**Please note:** Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://maryla.ahitravel.com/destinations/1888A?schoold=90>. You can also request a copy from our travel experts.

Any payment to AHI Travel constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out therein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.

## AHI FlexAir

### Let us arrange your flights

**Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:**

- **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
- arrival and departure **transfers** on group dates
- **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservation before departure on most flights (Fees may apply.)
- **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays



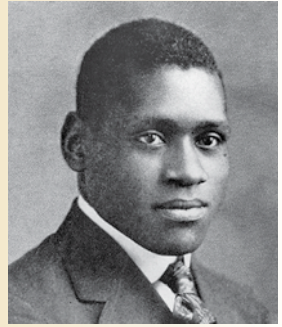
## London's Luminaries

From performers to authors to activists, London was where many 20th-century African-American luminaries found welcoming communities and audiences.

Acclaimed performer, champion athlete and political activist Paul Robeson was a fierce advocate for the rights of Blacks in the United States. After moving to Britain in the 1920s to escape racism in America, he was embraced throughout London. With theater hits like "Showboat" and "Othello" and films such as "Body and Soul," he earned worldwide acclaim.

Activist Frederick Douglass lived in London for 19 months in 1845. Douglass was a prominent crusader for Black equality who reached international fame with his electrifying oratory against slavery in America. Through thousands of speeches and editorials, debates over race, class and gender, and his ground-breaking autobiography, "Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave: Written by Himself" (1845), Douglass became a voice of indomitable hope for his people.

Jamaican Pan-African leader Marcus Garvey founded the Universal Negro Improvement Association, a fraternal organization of Black nationalists. Garvey established *The Negro World* in 1918, which reached a circulation of over 200,000. Many sites across London honor Garvey. A public library and public park bear his name and historical markers note Garvey's last office and residence.



Paul Robeson



Marcus Garvey



Vibrant traditional fabrics, Brixton market

### AHI Travel Expertise



From your reservation to your return home, we are here to ensure you have the adventure of a lifetime.

#### *Before you go:*

**Travel Consultants** stand ready to answer your questions as they guide you through the reservation process.

**Travel & Air Coordinators** each offer their personalized assistance with flights, electives and special requests.

**Travel Information** provides pre-departure details and enrichment about your destination.

#### *Once you arrive:*

**Your Travel Director**, a seasoned, multilingual professional, manages daily logistics so you enjoy a seamless experience.

**Handpicked Expert Guides** offer fascinating insights and share their passion for their country with you.

**Knowledgeable Lecturers** deepen your appreciation for the region and its history, culture and current events.



Photo op on walking tour



London Underground (transit system)



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**Uncover the rich history of London's Black communities!**

**AHI Travel's** mission is to deliver inspirational, educational and cultural programs that delight travelers.

**With AHI you can rely on:**

- Experienced Travel Directors who attend to every detail of your journey.
- An exceptional travel value.
- Unique access to local sites.
- Flexibility and customization.
- Safety and security.



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