A Royal English Christmas

November 28, 2027 - December 6, 2027

Program Overview

Delight in a joyful seven-night holiday journey through England, brimming with festive cheer and rich history! Spend three nights in the UNESCO-listed city of Bath and four nights in vibrant London, staying at first-class, centrally located hotels. Explore Bath's elegant Georgian architecture and the famous Roman Baths, then step back in time at a restored 18th-century townhouse museum. Savor a festive holiday tea at the elegant Pump Room. Wander through the picturesque Cotswolds village of Lacock, lined with charming stone cottages, and visit the medieval Lacock Abbey and the stately country house at Dyrham Park. Experience the grandeur of Windsor Castle's beautifully decorated rooms before traveling to London, where you'll immerse yourself in rich history and Christmas traditions at the Victorian-era Leadenhall Market. Enjoy a captivating performance of "The Christmas Carol" at the Old Vic Theater, delve into the life and works of Charles Dickens on a walking tour, museum visit and cozy pub lunch. Round out your holiday adventure with a choice of excursions: a Christmas cooking class or a visit to the colorful Covent Garden. This carefully curated itinerary blends history and seasonal magic for an unforgettable holiday experience.

Christmas in London from Double-decker bus

Windsor Castle. ©Doug Harding/The Royal Borough Image Bank

Bath Abbey christmas decorations

Program Highlights

- Spend 7 nights immersed in the merry holiday magic of England with included excursions every day and first-class hotel accommodations in Bath and London.
- Private holiday tour of the No. 1 Royal Crescent townhouse museum, fashionably decorated in late 18th-century Georgian style.
- Featured guest speaker Lucinda Hawksley, great-great-great-granddaughter of Victorian novelist Charles Dickens.
- Specially arranged Dickensian Christmas walking tour with a traditional pub lunch at the 17th-century Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese.
- Visits to 3 UNESCO World Heritage sites: The City of Bath, an ancient Roman city filled with stately Georgian architecture; the Tower of London; and the Palace of Westminster & Westminster Abbey.
- Included meals | 2 receptions, 7 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 1 dinner.

Day-by-Day Program Itinerary

- The Activity Level ratings indicate each excursion's physical expectations. To make the best personal choice, please evaluate each excursion's rating and your ability to meet the tour's physical demands.

Mild excursions involve:

- Walking for 1.5 hours or more over uneven terrain
- Walking on challenging surfaces: cobblestones, uneven paths and/or pavements
- Climbing stairs and hills and crossing rail tracks
- Ascending and descending narrow (and sometimes steep) gangplanks
- Stepping on and off motorcoaches with 3-6 steep steps

Moderate excursions could involve the above, plus:

- Walking for 3 hours for distances of a mile or more
- Walking on uneven terrain: narrow cobblestone streets, stone floors, and/or slippery surfaces. There may be several flights of stairs, some without railings

Active excursions could involve the above, plus:

- Walking on uneven terrain: sandy or rocky beaches and/or steep inclines
- Standing for 2 hours or more at a time, possibly without areas to sit
- Climbing 100 stairs or more
- Additional challenges, such as long jeep rides, bumpy boat rides or hikes

- Depending on the excursion, more leisurely alternatives to active excursions may be available.

Day 1 | Depart Home City

Depart home city for London, England

Day 2 | London, England | Bath

Arrive at Heathrow International Airport in London. Proceed through the immigration checkpoint to the baggage claim area and retrieve your luggage. After completing a customs screening, meet a Gohagan & Company representative.

Transfer to Bath and check in to The Francis Hotel. Unpack and settle in this afternoon. Make your own plans for lunch, and start exploring the area, if you wish.

Free Time: During the festive season, the streets are aglow with twinkle lights. With more than 200 chalets selling local foods and gifts, plus carol singers galore, the Georgian-styled Bath Christmas Market is especially fun. Head out to explore and get your first taste of an English Christmas!

Welcome Reception: This evening, join your fellow travelers for a Welcome Reception at the hotel.

After the reception, make your own plans for dinner. The Gohagan Travel Hospitality Desk stands ready with dining and itinerary suggestions. Typical British dishes include fish and chips, meat pies, bangers and mash and spaghetti Bolognese.

Day 3 | Bath

Begin each day at the hotel with a scrumptious English breakfast to fuel your adventures.

Bath City Tour. Trace rich history as you walk through the well-preserved city of Bath, a beautiful UNESCO World Heritage site nestled along the River Avon. Bath was built around the only natural hot spring in Great Britain, and the city was originally an exclusive spa getaway for European aristocrats. Visit the Roman Baths, see artifacts offered to Sulis, the healing goddess, and remnants of an ancient heating system. Admire the stunning architecture of Bath Abbey, Pulteney Bridge and the 18th-century Georgian Royal Crescent, a row of 30 terraced houses with Georgian façades and Romanesque columns. Enjoy a private tour of the Royal Crescent. (Active)

Lunch & Holiday Tea at the Pump Room. A decadence of yesteryear awaits. Delight in a Christmas-themed Afternoon Tea. Enjoy a selection of indulgent finger sandwiches, exquisite cakes and pastries, and handmade scones served with clotted cream and preserves. To accompany your treats, choose fine loose tea or coffee.

Free Time: Enjoy time at leisure to make your own discoveries in this sophisticated city. You may wish to relax at the Thermae Bath Spa or visit Bath’s Fashion Museum, which houses a collection of archaic costumes.

Make your own plans for dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 4 | Bath | Cotswolds

Cotswolds ~ Lacock & Lacock Abbey. Delight in breathtaking rural England during an outing to the charming Cotswolds. At Christmastime, the region is awash with twinkle lights and gingerbread-esque cottages. Begin at the quaint village of Lacock, which is managed by the National Trust. Many films and TV shows have been filmed in this impressive setting, including “Downton Abbey,” “Pride and Prejudice,” “Harry Potter” and the “Games of Thrones” series. After a stroll through Lacock’s high street, passing timber-framed buildings and Harry Potter’s parent’s house, visit Lacock Abbey, which dates back to 1232 and is built on the foundations of an Augustinian nunnery. Walk in the footsteps of monastic life and listen to stories of William Henry Fox Talbot, a British scientist who lived here. (Moderate)

Enjoy lunch at the White Hart, a traditional English pub located in the hamlet of Ford near Chippenham. The historic pub dates to Tudor times and has a lovely garden.

Dyrham Park. En route back to Bath, visit the National Trust Dyrham Park, a 270-acre deer park with a beautiful and elegant country house. Created by William Blathwayt in the late 17th century, the house has been recently restored and reimagined. Enjoy Christmas through the ages in rooms that are decorated with greenery, lights and more. Outside, enjoy an outdoor reindeer trail and a giant wreath, perfect for Christmas-themed photos. (Moderate)

Dinner is at leisure tonight. Find traditional holiday meals, including roast turkey with all the trimmings, Yorkshire puddings, roasted vegetables and mince pies.

Day 5 | Bath |Windsor | London

Windsor Castle. Discover rich cultural heritage at Windsor Castle, the setting of two royal weddings, one of the official residences of His Majesty the King and a venue for ceremonial and state occasions. Christmas here is a festive season and you’ll enjoy breathtaking decorations in the royal residence, including garlands and twinkle lights. See the State Apartments, with its outstanding art collections, and admire the towering Nordmann Fir tree in St George's Chapel, topped with a special star that marks the 675th anniversary of the Order of the Garter. (Moderate)

Free Time: Take advantage of time at leisure to find lunch on your own and explore Windsor.

Continue to London and check in to the The Rubens at the Palace. Then head out to find dinner on your own. London offers a true holiday experience as well as a buzzing food scene. Along with traditional British staples (like fish and chips), visitors will find an impressive array of international cuisines, fine-dining experiences offering elevated British cuisine and authentic pubs with tasty burgers and beer.

Day 6 | London

The London of Charles Dickens. Delve deep into the life of world-famous author Charles Dickens on an enlightening walking tour of bygone London. Follow a storied path, from alleyways to gas-lit courtyards, old pubs to the Strand, plus other sites that Dickens knew intimately, visited and wrote about. Along the way, learn about the background behind different novels and interesting facts about Dickens’ life and works. Conclude at the Charles Dickens Museum and join a guide for a tour of the museum’s rare paintings, manuscripts and more. (Active)

Step into a portal of the past and sit down to a traditional English pub lunch at Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese. Rebuilt in

1667 following the Great Fire of London in 1666, this timeless tavern features dark wood paneling; walls with portraits of Oliver Goldsmith, Mark Twain and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle; and a roaring fire (seasonal).

Leadenhall Market Walking Tour. Designed by Sir Horace Jones (who also designed Billingsgate and Smithfield Markets), the eye-catching Leadenhall Market is a covered hall with a striking interior. During the festive season, the hall is adorned with tiny Christmas trees, giant swooping garlands and a massive Christmas tree. Spend some leisure time browsing the unique boutiques, high-end shops and food spaces. Find tasty, mulled wines, baked goods, sausages and a fun selection of gifts and wares. (Active)

Tonight, enjoy dinner on your own. You may wish to try Indian and Pakistani foods such as chicken tikka masala and spicy curries.

Day 7 | London

Victoria & Albert Museum. The famous Victoria & Albert Museum (V&A) opened in 1857 as a project of Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's consort. With a permanent collection of over 2 million objects in more than 140 galleries, the sprawling V&A has something for everyone, from fashion exhibits to medieval tombs, Persian silk carpets to centuries-old mosaics, shimmering ceramics to exceptional photographs. (Moderate)

Free Time: Return to the hotel and spend time at leisure this afternoon.

Christmas Dinner & Performance. Ebenezer Scrooge and his three ghosts take center stage tonight during a wonderful performance of "A Christmas Carol" at London's famous Old Vic theater. Enjoy Dickens' most legendary ghost story and a holiday tradition during an evening of magic and merriment. Dinner is served prior to the performance. (Mild)

Day 8 | London

After a filling breakfast, proceed to your selected Traveler's Choice excursion.

Traveler's Choice | Choose ONE of the following included excursions.

Christmas Cooking Class. What better way to celebrate the festive season than by cooking (and savoring) a holiday meal? Start your experience with some freshly baked treats and tea/coffee. Then cook your holiday meal accompanied by experienced teachers. Cap off the excursion by digging into the feast you cooked, accompanied by specially selected wines. (Moderate)

Covent Garden & Lunch. A visit to this covered market is a feast for the senses and beloved Christmas destination in London. The chalet-style halls are decorated with sparkling balls, bells and thousands of twinkling lights. Stroll along the cobbled piazza as Christmas tunes and the aromas of festive treats drift through the air. Delight in the festive atmosphere, sip some mulled wine on your own and listen to street performers. Then, enjoy an included lunch at a market restaurant. (Moderate)

London Bus Tour. Your final excursion takes you through London on a classic open-top bus adorned with holiday

décor. Pass by London’s major landmarks gloriously bathed in light, including the Tower of London, Big Ben, Tower Bridge and Westminster Abbey. (Mild)

Farewell Champagne Toast: Raise a special toast to your London holiday adventure on the London Eye, the world's largest cantilevered observation wheel.

Day 9 | London | Return to Home City

Following breakfast, check out of the hotel and transfer to Heathrow International Airport for your return flight home. Arrive in your home city.

Travel Expert

Lucinda Hawksley | Featured Guest Speaker

Alongside writing books, Lucinda Hawksley is a broadcaster, lecturer and award-winning travel writer who has worked as an interviewee, consultant and presenter on TV and radio shows worldwide. Her most recent books are "Victorian Christmas "(2024) and "Dickens and Travel" (2022), which explore the journeys made by her great-great-great great grandfather, Charles Dickens.

Over the past few years, Lucinda has taken time out from non-fiction to complete her first novel, which was inspired jointly by her love of crime fiction and by the real-life stories of women she has encountered during her research. Her previous books include the critically acclaimed biographies "Lizzie Siddal: The Tragedy of a Pre-Raphaelite Supermodel" (2004), "The Mystery of Princess Louise: Queen Victoria's Rebellious Daughter" (2013) and "Dickens's Artistic Daughter, Katey" (2018), about the artist Kate Perugini. Her other titles include "March, Women, March: Voices of the Women's Movement" (2013), "Bitten by Witch Fever: Wallpaper and Arsenic in the Victorian Home" (2016) and "Letters of Great Women" (2020).

Lucinda has also written and narrated works for Audible, including "The Real Sherlock," a six-part podcast series. From 2021-2024, she presented The Goldster Podcast, for which she interviewed fellow authors. She also co-created and appeared in the Channel 4 TV program Miriam's Dickensian Christmas. Lucinda and Miriam Margolyes (a fellow patron of the Charles Dickens Museum in London) have also appeared together in shows they have co-written for Dickens festivals. Lucinda is frequently asked to attend Dickens festivals and events all over the world – from Texas to Shanghai and Italy to New Zealand – and she is the current President of the International Dickens Fellowship.

Accommodations

London Royal English Christmas

The Rubens at the Palace | London

Steeped in history and located on a site that was, in the 18th-century, part of the grounds of Buckingham Palace, The Rubens at the Palace stands as a living testament to its storied past. Guests revel in the meticulous attention to detail, beautifully appointed accommodations, delicious restaurants and personalized service. The site, once filled with shops and apartments for Buckingham Palace staff, echoes its royal legacy, creating a unique blend of modern luxury and timeless charm for every guest to experience.

With its central location, the hotel serves as the ideal base for exploring London's famous attractions. Buckingham Palace, the Royal Mews, the Queen's Gallery, the River Thames, Houses of Parliament, Big Ben and the London Eye are all within walking distance.

The Francis Hotel

Feel immersed in Bath’s historic grandeur at this stylish hotel housed in a series of connected, 18th-century townhouses in the heart of the city across from Queen Square. You’ll be greeted by a helpful, friendly team who are at the ready to ensure that your stay is a pleasant and memorable one. The thoughtfully designed, spacious guest rooms feature Egyptian cotton linens and en-suite bathrooms with modern amenities including eco-friendly toiletries. Relax amid the vibrant, convivial atmosphere of the hotel’s inviting bar and restaurant after an exciting day of exploration.

Dates & Rates

Travel Dates: November 28, 2027 - December 6, 2027

All rates are in U.S. dollars per person, based on double occupancy, unless otherwise stated, and include taxes. The deposit is $2000 per person. The Final Payment is due at least 150 days prior to departure. Single accommodations are subject to availability.

The Optional Extension(s) is available at an additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

For Terms & Conditions, visit: miss.gohagantravel.com/terms/

The Special Savings consist of $500 Early Booking and $500 Pay-in-Full savings. The Special Savings rate is valid if you book by April 9, 2027 and pay in full at the time of booking.

Double Occupancy Rates

Category	Description	Standard Rate	Discount Rate
1	Standard	$8195.00	$7195.00

Single Occupancy Rates

Category	Description	Standard Rate	Discount Rate
1	Standard	$10240.00	$9240.00

London Royal English Christmas

All information is accurate as of October 24, 2026. For up-to-date details, please visit:
miss.gohagantravel.com/programs/a-royal-english-christmas-2027-1