



the
normal
marching
band



ITINERARY DRAFT AS OF NOVEMBER 11

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 at baggage claim.
- ✓ 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. Refer to your cardholder agreement.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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 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 is (309) 310-4435
- ✓ 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. 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 return trip!
- ✓ 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!
- ✓ Instruments including alto saxophones and larger will be shipped by freight approximately two weeks prior to the band's departure. This includes percussion, marching brass instruments, color guard equipment, drumline equipment. Marching uniforms and tuxedos will likely be freighted.
- ✓ Pack one checked bag with good wheels (again, sizes/weights as specified by the airline)
- ✓ Women's Concert black (dresses, shoes) should be packed in your checked or carry on bag.
- ✓ London Wind Ensemble performers should pack their music folder in their carry-on/backpack.
- ✓ Pack your phone, charger, headphones, portable power pack. Avoid laptops/gaming systems.
- ✓ Pack a neck pillow or something to allow you to sleep on the plane.
- ✓ Clothing that is appropriate for all events (outdoor/indoor and casual/formal). Dress for winter!
- ✓ 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

Departure times will be determined by your flight assignment.

- 12 PM or 4:30 PM **Arrive 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!
- 12:30 PM or 5 PM **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.
- 2:30 PM **Arrive 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.
Depart for London (Flights depart at 5 PM, 5:50 PM, 6:25 PM, and 10 PM)
Here we go! 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 is a good chance that flights will travel overnight—do your best to get some sleep. There will be meal service en route.
- 6:50 - 11:40 AM **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 head 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 to the hotel.
- Novotel London West** Telephone: 020 8741 1555
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 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
- 4:00 PM **Meet in Hotel Lobby - Chaperones will handle check in and distribute keys to room captains**. Make sure all luggage/instruments/assigned equipment make it to your room.
- 6:00 PM **Dinner in the hotel, in the Champagne Room**
- 7:00 PM **Retrieve instrument/equipment from storage room**
- 7:15 PM **Wind Ensemble Rehearsal in the hotel - Champagne Room**
- 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. Talk through the next day.

Do you have your passport?
Make sure 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 festival.
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. (Follow the 3-1-1 rule for carryon liquids. Do you have headphones for the plane?

For rehearsal, you will need:
Instrument with mutes, etc.
Music folder and pencil
All percussion equipment

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)
****Please check the bus listing!***
- 12:00 AM **Tour ends in Covent Garden - Lunch at leisure**
- 1:30 PM **Concert Performers and staff return to coach and depart for St. John's, Smith Square**
- 1:45 PM **Wind Ensemble performers and staff arrive and offload instruments**
- 2:00 PM **Wind Ensemble Sound Check/Dress Rehearsal**
All other travelers spend time shopping/sightseeing at Covent Garden/Leicester Square!
(See Map of boundaries)
- 3:00 PM **End of rehearsal, leave instruments at hall, board coaches for hotel**
- 3:00 PM **Non Wind Ensemble Members/Chaperones -meet at Swiss Clock (Between M & M Store and the lego store) board Tube - back to Hotel**
- 5:00 PM **Dinner - Champagne Room**
- 6:30 PM **Load Coaches for LNYDP GALA CONCERT at St. John's Smith Square**
Wind Ensemble performers will wear Concert Black. Non performers 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: Non group members wanting to come to the concert can buy tickets at the door - this is a cash only event! (around \$20 a ticket)
- 10:00 PM **End of Concert**
Load instruments/music/percussion in coaches, depart for hotel
- 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
Visitor 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 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 London**
- 5:00 PM **Dinner near the hotel - (Use your Restaurant Card for dinner.)**
Go in groups with Chaperones
- 7:00 PM **Percussion meet in Equipment storage room - pick up uniforms**
Colorguard meet on balcony (weather permitting - review routine, pick up uniforms at end of rehearsal)
- 7:30 PM **Brass meet in equipment storage room - pick up uniforms**
- 8:00 PM **Woodwinds/banner carriers - meet in storage room - pick up uniforms**
- 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 in case of weather

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**
- 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**
- 1:00 PM **End of visit to Tower of London**
Re-join coach and travel to Cole Drops Yard
Lunch at leisure in Cole Drops Yard/King's Cross Station area (See Map)
Can see Platform 9¾, Shopping
- 4:00 PM **Meet Chaperones at designated spot - return to hotel by underground.**
- 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 at 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

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 need to make their own way to the parade route, likely using the underground or bus network. You will not reunite with NMB until our return to the hotel later in the day!
- 9:30 AM **NMB Performers and staff board coaches, depart for assembly area in Berkeley Square.** 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!**
- TIME TBD **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**
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 chaperones at the main entrance - take the tube back to the hotel**
- 10:00 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

- 7:00AM **Breakfast in Champagne Suite**
- 8:45 AM **Meet chaperone in the lobby**, remember to bring your Restaurant Card
- 9:00 AM **Board Coaches - Head to 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 walls
- 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

- Departure times will be determined by your flight assignment.**
- 6:30 AM **Breakfast in Champagne Suite**
- 7:00 - 10:00 AM **Check out of hotel, give room keys to flight chaperone**
Make sure to bring EVERYTHING down with you
- 7:30 - 10:30 AM **Depart for London Heathrow Airport**
Check in, 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.
- 8:15 - 11:15 AM **Depart for Chicago**
- TIME TBD **Arrive in Chicago**
Be sure that you have all carry-on items and passport when deplaning. (Did you remember to check the seatback pocket?) We will move through customs as a group. (You will need your passport again!)
Move to Baggage Claim as a group and collect your luggage/instrument.
Check in with your Flight chaperone.
Remember to keep track of any extra assigned equipment (percussion). Load the coaches and depart for Normal.
- TIME TBD **Approximate Arrival at Normal West**
Make sure you take all your luggage, instruments with you!

WELCOME HOME!!!

CONGRATULATIONS ON A FANTASTIC LONDON TOUR!!!