

Life Along the Thames: London and Beyond



After establishing an English Department tradition of visiting London to explore the city and celebrate British literature, we have organized a new trip, one that cements “Life Along the Thames” as a signature part of both the PDS US English Program and Global Studies. We hope to give students in grades 10 through 12 the opportunity to study and experience British history, culture, art, and literature. This newly proposed trip will include many of the same London highlights provided on previous trips (detailed below), but would offer both a new annual focus on a select British author and an excursion to another city, Edinburgh, Scotland.

In keeping with PDS’ passion for interdisciplinary education and experiential learning, “Life Along the Thames” will bring to life the literature, history, and culture studied in select English and History courses. One author will be chosen as a focus of the trip. Students will read select works before travelling to England. They will spend time in the city exploring the author’s birthplace and haunts, as well as the settings of his/her novels, poems, or plays.

“Life Along the Thames” is a one-week trip that will run during the second week of spring break in March 2019.

“Life Along the Thames” will give preference to students in grades 10 to 12 applying to the trip, but is open to all grades. Students interested in participating will submit an application explaining their interest in travel to London. They will need to highlight their

interest in British literature, art, history, and/or culture and they will need to mention courses that have prepared them for the journey.

Highlights of the trip in London:

- *Workshop at the Globe Theatre
- *A theatre experience in the West End
- *Walking tour of London's literary landmarks (Dickens, Sherlock Holmes, Bram Stoker) with emphasis on one author
- *Visit the National Gallery, Tate Britain, Tate Modern, the V&A Museum, and the British Museum
- *Tour Saint Paul's Cathedral
- *Tour Westminster Abbey
- *Visit Abbey Road and Camden—Beatles stomping ground; the birthplace of punk rock
- *Harry Potter walking tour
- *Attend a football match



Outside of London:

Take a two-day excursion to Edinburgh, Scotland--tour Edinburgh Castle, have tea at The Elephant House (the café where J.K. Rowling penned *Harry Potter*), and hike through the Scottish countryside.

***Estimated cost:** \$3600, includes airfare, hotel (with breakfast), travel cards, museum, theatre, and football tickets, plus two group dinners.