

LONDON ARTS DISCOVERY

MANHATTAN THEATRE CLUB
TOUR ITINERARY

27 DECEMBER 2019 – 3 JANUARY 2020

www.londonartsdiscovery.co.uk

Friday 27 December

Arrive at a London Airport.

Transfer (own arrangements) to the **Check in**.

The Stafford Hotel.

This elegant English townhouse-style property is tucked behind Green Park in the refined district of St James's. The Stafford has more contemporary rooms in a modern extension in the rear courtyard and has an American Bar particularly popular with residents and visitors alike.

4.00pm **Welcome by Tour Directors.**

Briefing on all aspects of the tour from extra performances and major exhibitions to recommended restaurants. In the **Sutherland Room** at the hotel.

7.15pm Coach departs for the **Arts Theatre**, Great Newport Street.

8.00pm **SIX** by Toby Marlow & Lucy Ross.

Critically acclaimed across the UK with a sound-track storming up the UK pop charts, the sell-out intoxicating Tudor take-off plays London's West End. From Tudor Queens to Pop Princesses, the six wives of Henry VIII take to the mic to tell their tales, remixing five hundred years of historical heartbreak into a 75-minute celebration of 21st century girl power. These Queens may have green sleeves but their lipstick is rebellious red.

NB There is no interval.

9.15pm **Post show discussion**

With **DANIELLE STEERS** (*Catherine Parr*) and **COURTNEY BOWMAN** (*Anne Boleyn*).
In the theatre.

10.00pm Coach departs for the hotel.

Saturday 28 December

*Breakfast is served in The **Game Bird Restaurant** from 7.00am to 10.00am Monday to Friday, from 7.00am to 10.30am on Saturday and from 7.30am - 11.00am on Sunday, or in your room with no extra charge.*

10.30am Coach departs for the **Hayward Gallery**, Southbank.

11.00am **BRIDGET RILEY**

A major retrospective devoted to the work of celebrated British artist Bridget Riley. Developed in close collaboration with the artist herself – in partnership with National Galleries of Scotland – the largest and most comprehensive exhibition of her work to date. Tracing both the origins and the evolving nature of Riley’s innovative practice, the exhibition brings together the artist’s iconic black-and-white paintings of the 1960s, expansive canvases in colour, early figurative works and recent wall paintings. Alongside best known canvases, rarely-seen drawings, studies and preparatory materials offer an insight into the artist’s working methods from 1947 to the present day. Spanning 70 years of Riley’s work, an unparalleled opportunity to experience powerful and engaging works by one of the most important artists of our time.

Free time to find lunch at the NT or the adjacent National Film Theatre or Royal Festival Hall.

2.00pm **MY BRILLIANT FRIEND (Part 1)** by Elena Ferrante.

Adapted by April De Angelis from Ferrante’s Neapolitan Novels. When the most important person in her life goes missing without a trace, Lenu Greco, now a celebrated author, begins to recall a relationship of more than 60 years. First meeting on the dangerous streets of postwar Naples, friends Lila and Lenu experience turbulent social and political change, from the rise of the Camorra to the sexual revolution and the transformation of their neighbourhood, city and nation. Even as life repeatedly tries to pull them in separate directions, they remain inextricably bound to one another.

Directed by Melly Still. Stars Niamh Cusack and Catherine McCormack.

National Theatre, Olivier

5.00pm **Welcome Dinner at House.**

The NT’s in-house fine-dining establishment situated between the Lyttelton and Olivier stages.

7.30pm **MY BRILLIANT FRIEND (Part 2)**

10.00pm **Post show discussion**

With APRIL DE ANGELIS, adaptor of this epic tale. In the Ashcroft Room.

10.45pm Coach departs for the hotel.

Sunday 29 December

MORNING FREE

12.00pm Coach departs for the Boulevard Theatre,

12.30pm **Lunch in Soho.**

Opened in October, the **Boulevard Theatre and Restaurant** are both welcome additions in the heart of the West End.

2.30pm ***GHOST QUARTET***

An eclectic and kaleidoscopic musical journey spanning Continents, centuries and the cosmos. An intoxicating musical of love, loss and spirits – of both the spectral and alcoholic kind. Dave Malloy is the three-time Tony Award-nominee writer of the Broadway smash-hit *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*. Bill Buckhurst directs.

4.00pm Coach departs for the hotel.

6.45pm Coach departs for the **Pinter Theatre**, Panton Street

7.30pm **IAN MCKELLEN ON STAGE**

Following an eighty-date national tour traversing the theatrical realm, the acting Knight, Wizard and Shakespearean legend brings his one man survey of his lengthy career to the West End. At eighty years old Sir Ian displays remarkable energy and commitment to his craft.

10.00pm Coach departs for the hotel.

Monday 30 December

9.00am **The State We're In**

An in-depth look at the country you are visiting – the politics and the social issues of the day. The UK continues to stumble out of the European Union. There have been three General Elections in five years. This one may deliver a functioning Government, or maybe it won't. These remain factors daily dominating the headlines. An engaging discussion with **PADDY O'CONNELL**, BBC journalist and presenter of Radio 4's Broadcasting House.

In the **Sutherland Room** at the hotel.

AFTERNOON FREE

6.30pm Coach departs for the **Almeida Theatre, N1**

7.30pm **THE DUCHESS OF MALFI** by John Webster

Almeida Associate Director Rebecca Frecknall follows her Olivier Award-winning production of Summer and Smoke and Three Sisters with John Webster's electrifying revenge tragedy on rage, resistance and a deadly lust for power. Lydia Wilson returns to the Almeida to play the Duchess, following her Olivier Award-nominated performance in King Charles III.

10.20pm Coach departs for the hotel.

Tuesday 31 December

9.00am Coach departs for **Stratford-upon-Avon**

11.15am Time for self-guided walking tour of the town. Stratford is of compact size enabling taking in the principal sites connected to Shakespeare and a quick lunch before curtain-up at the RSC.

1.00pm **THE BOY IN THE DRESS**

Adapted from David Walliams book by Mark Ravenhill, music/lyrics Robbie Williams & Guy Chambers.

Dennis is 12 years old and his school football team's star striker. But when Mum leaves home, life is tough. The only reminder Dennis has of Mum is a photo of her in a beautiful yellow dress. A dress rather like the one on the cover of Vogue on sale at Raj's newsagents; a bit like the one Lisa James, the coolest girl in the school, is sketching in her note book. What if you like both football and dresses? What will Mr Hawtrey, the headteacher, do when he discovers that his strict uniform code has been broken by a boy in a dress? Directed by RSC Artistic Director Gregory Doran.

Royal Shakespeare Theatre

3.30pm Coach continues to Chaddleworth.

5.30pm **Visit and Dinner at Woolley Park.**

This year our New Year's Eve will be an exclusive house party in this gracious private home deep in the Berkshire countryside.

The home of KIRSTEN LOYD and RHYDIAN MORGAN-JONES, on a beautiful estate, Woolley Park is a delightfully welcoming house and has been in Kirsten's family since 1556. After a serenade given by Tamara Astor and drinks in the drawing room, Kirsten and Rhydian will host a gala dinner in their splendid dining room.

9.00pm Coach departs for our late return to the hotel.
Surrounding streets will be closed – so walking (about 10 minutes) will be required.

Wednesday 1 January

MORNING & AFTERNOON FREE

6.45pm Assemble in the foyer to walk to the Piccadilly Theatre.

7.30pm **DEATH OF A SALESMAN** by Arthur Miller.

The great American classic is given a work-out by hugely acclaimed directors Marianne Elliott (*Warhorse, Curious Dog, Company*) and Miranda Cromwell. Featuring Wendell Pierce making his UK stage debut as Willy Loman, and Olivier Award-winning Sharon D. Clarke as Linda Loman, and Sope Dirisu playing Biff.

10.30pm Return to the hotel on foot.

Thursday 2 January

9.30am	Acting Miller <i>SOPE DIRISU</i> discusses playing the role of Biff Loman in <i>Death of a Salesman</i> .
10.30am	Exhibition Introduction. <i>RICHARD STEMPEL</i> , our in-house art expert gives an illustrated introduction to the Pre-Raphaelite exhibition we will see this morning. Both in the Sutherland Room at the hotel.
11.15am	Coach departs for the National Portrait Gallery .
11.45am	PRE-RAPHAELITE SISTERS. 160 years after the first pictures were exhibited by the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood in 1849, <i>Pre-Raphaelite Sisters</i> , explores the overlooked contribution of twelve women to the Pre-Raphaelite movement, including Evelyn de Morgan , Effie Millais (nee Gray), Elizabeth Siddal and Joanna Wells (nee Boyce). Featuring new discoveries and unseen works from public and private collections across the world, the exhibition reveals the women behind the pictures. Through paintings, photographs, manuscripts and personal items, exploring the significant roles they played as artists, models, muses and helpmeets.
1.30pm	Coach departs for the hotel.
3.15pm	Coach departs for Kiln Theatre , Kilburn
4.00pm	A CRITICAL PERSPECTIVE A round-up of the week's performances with MICHAEL BILLINGTON of <i>The Guardian</i> , the UK's longest serving drama critic. In the James Baldwin Room at the Kiln Theatre
5.30pm	Closing Dinner at the Kiln Theatre's Restaurant
7.30pm	SNOWFLAKE by Mike Bartlett Critically-acclaimed festive hit by Olivier Award-winning and BAFTA-nominated Mike Bartlett. Andy's 43. He loves nostalgic TV and pints down the Kilburn High Road. His daughter Maya is 21. She left home three years ago and hasn't spoken to him since. This Christmas, Andy knows she's coming back - Maya knows she's not.
9.40pm	Coach departs for the hotel.

Friday 3 January

DEPARTURE.

Transfer, self-arranged, to Heathrow Airport and return flights