

# EXCURSIONS AND ACTIVITIES

## LONDON, FALL 2024

Learning about yourself and the world around you happens both in and outside the classroom. Read below for an overview of the excursions and activities offered during your Verto study abroad experience in London!

### Excursions

The following is a list of excursions that Verto organizes, included as part of your abroad experience fee. You will go on excursions with your Care Team, giving you the opportunity to get closer to your community while also seeing a new place!

#### Day Trips: Brighton or Oxford or Windsor

Students will be split into groups and enjoy day trips to each of the following locations on dates to be confirmed.

#### **Brighton**

Brighton is a seaside resort city just 47 miles south of London. Quirky and cute, Brighton offers vintage shopping and diverse cuisine with health and sustainability at the forefront, in addition to the typical English pubs and tearooms. Explore the Victorian history and modern-day delights of Brighton Pier, search the boho boutiques of its cute shopping street, The Lanes, or experience a bird's eye view of the coastline from 450 ft above ground on Brighton i360.

Known for its open-minded community and LGBTQ+ population, as well as its bohemian atmosphere and eco-friendly spirit, Brighton is a city you don't want to miss!

#### **Oxford**

Oxford, The City of Dreaming Spires, is famous the world over for its University and place in history. For over 800 years, it has been a home to royalty and scholars, and since the 9th century an established town, although people are known to have lived in the area for thousands of years. Nowadays, the city is a bustling cosmopolitan town. Still with its ancient University, but home also to a growing hi-tech community. Many businesses are located in and around the town, whether on one of the Science and Business Parks or within one of a number of residential areas.

With its mix of ancient and modern, there is plenty for both the tourist and resident to do. Whether its visiting one of the many historic buildings, colleges or museums, going out for a drink or a meal, taking in a show or shopping till you drop, Oxford along with the entire county of Oxfordshire has it all and [oxfordcity.co.uk](http://oxfordcity.co.uk) is your online Oxford City guide

### **Windsor and Windsor Castle**

Windsor Castle is a royal residence at Windsor in the English county of Berkshire. It is strongly associated with the English and succeeding British royal family, and embodies almost a millennium of architectural history.

Windsor is a historic town in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead in Berkshire, England. It is the site of Windsor Castle, one of the official residences of the British monarch. The town is situated 21.8 miles (35.1 km) west of Charing Cross, central London, 5.8 miles (9.3 km) southeast of Maidenhead, and 15.8 miles (25.4 km) east of the modern county town of Reading. It is immediately south of the River Thames, which forms its boundary with its smaller, ancient twin town of Eton. The village of Old Windsor, just over 2 miles (3 km) to the south, predates what is now called Windsor by around 300 years. In the past, Windsor was formally referred to as New Windsor to distinguish the two.

### **Overnight trip: Edinburgh**

Date to be confirmed.

Edinburgh is Scotland's compact, hilly capital. It has a medieval Old Town and elegant Georgian New Town with gardens and neoclassical buildings. Looming over the city is Edinburgh Castle, home to Scotland's crown jewels and the Stone of Destiny, used in the coronation of Scottish rulers. Arthur's Seat is an imposing peak in Holyrood Park with sweeping views, and Calton Hill is topped with monuments and memorials

You'll stay for 2 nights bed and breakfast in this wonderful city over the weekend, which includes; London/Edinburgh return rail , a guided walking tour of the town, group 3 course evening meal on arrival, entrance to Edinburgh Castle, and plenty of time to explore this amazing city independently.

## **Experiential Learning**

Every course includes experiential learning as part of its delivery. This may include visits outside of the classroom, guest speakers, or hands-on class activities.

Here are a few examples of experiential learning activities that were offered in the past.

Please note: The specific activities and courses described here are examples and may or may not be offered during term.

- Visit to the Imperial War Museum, with Modern Societies and Civilizations
- Walking Tour of London, with Introduction to Business and Entrepreneurship
- Walking Tour of London's Financial District, with International Relations
- Visiting the Wallace Collection, with History of Art
- Visiting St Ethelburga's Centre for Peace and Reconciliation, with Diversity and Social Justice

## Activities

During the week, Verto staff will organize activities for you to get to know one another, develop skills, and have fun. Students (aka YOU!) will also play a role in organizing activities. Here are highlight activities that we are excited to offer:

**Student Clubs:** Verto London partners with University College London to offer access to over 300 clubs and societies. Students also have the opportunity to form their own clubs at Verto, with a few examples from previous semesters including Dungeons & Dragons, yoga, and music clubs.

**Community Engagement:** Students have the opportunity to engage with the community through volunteering opportunities across the semester. We'll focus on supporting homelessness organizations & caring for our natural environment.

**Weekly Activities:** Care Team Leaders will offer multiple activities and workshops at the Study Center and across London every week! Some examples include visiting neighborhoods like Brixton, Camden, and Greenwich, exploring local markets, and engaging in workshops on self-care, budgeting, or cooking!

## Independent Travel

If you wish to travel away from your Verto location on weekends, you must fill out the Independent Travel Log so we know where you're going. Don't worry, we're not going to track you! We just need to account for everyone in case of an emergency.

Check out Verto's social media to learn where students have traveled in previous years!