

Travel during weekends on your mini-break

From: Dr. Mackaman

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Hello All!

I know that most of you are looking forward to London and all that we will do in and around there. But experience tells us that you guys also look very much ahead to the time you will be out of London exploring other places.

Please look carefully at your academic calendar as you think about and go on to make your plans to travel and explore beyond London. You should also consult your course syllabus for the BSP to be sure that your professor has not planned something special for your group that could conflict with your travel.

Your main times to travel independently of the program and your academic course will be:

- 1) The weekend of 17, 18, 19 July. Although this can be a great chance to get out with your new BSP friends and see some of Europe, it can also be an excellent time to stay back in London. That weekend we will have very cost effective excursions available to you on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. If you stay back with us, for about \$25/day, you can elect to see Stratford-on-Avon, Stonehenge, Dover Castle and a few other awesome sites while you come back to your room each night and get to know London and the program even better. So travel if you wish! But feel free to save your money and stay back in London this weekend if you prefer. Most of your professors will be staying back!

If you do travel this weekend, be SURE that you are back in London on Sunday night (Monday AM returns are not approved) and do not make any plans to leave on Thursday evening 16 July until you have cleared this with your course's professor.

- 2) Mini-break, 30 July until 3 August. This is your best chance to travel. Take advantage of it! You will start your mini-break period of liberty to travel from wherever your London Away experience has left you. That may mean Edinburgh, Amsterdam or Paris depending on which course you are taking. In any case, you will be free in the city where your London Away time has been spent by the end of the day on Wednesday. You WILL have housing arranged and paid for on that Wednesday night, and most if not all of you will want to take advantage of that and stay put for a last night before taking off. Where you choose to go is your own decision. We encourage you to travel in groups whenever possible and to make plans that maximize your own interests in conjunction with the time you have at your disposal. If you have not planned anything concretely when you get to London that can be fine. You will have ample opportunity that first week to meet new people and to talk about places you might want to commonly go and see! If you do make plans in advance of coming to London, this is also fine. But please keep in mind where you will be starting your travel from--the place that is your London Away academic destination--and where you will be returning to: LONDON.

Each summer we have students who elect to come back to London and stay in our dorm during the mini-break weekend. Given that this is your only clear time to travel outside of the city, we advise you to manage your budget and plans carefully so that you are allowed to take this travel chance and leave the city. If your own interests are "all London all the time," which flat-out can be the case, that is fine. We will want to have your reserve a dorm room AS SOON AS POSSIBLE if you know that you want to stay in London during the break period. We will help you to make your

reservation for mini-break housing back in London, but there will be a supplemental fee for staying in the dorm the 4 nights of mini-break as our program office is closed at this time except for emergency situations.

EXTRA NOTE: Do not make any travel plans for the weekend of 24-25 July, as you will have an early departure, on Sunday 26 July, from the city toward your class' LONDON Away destination. Everyone must pack up and be ready for BSP Move Out on Saturday night 25 July.

I wish you all a great week as you think about London and begin to plan your travels away from the city, both on our free weekend and for mini-break. Remember that if you do not have travel arranged prior to arriving in London you will be like most of our students!

Cheers everyone!

Dr. Mackaman