

NIU
ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION



London Calling

A Behind-the-Scenes Journey Through British Music History

October 19 – 26, 2025



From the explosive British Invasion of the 1960s to punk's raw energy in the 1970s, London stands as one of music's undisputed powerhouses. From **October 19 to 26, 2025**, join Northern Illinois University behind the scenes in the city where the **Beatles** crossed Abbey Road, the Rolling Stones prowled Chelsea's streets, and the **Sex Pistols** sparked revolution in Camden's gritty clubs.

With expert guidance and exclusive access, experience the storied spots that launched global music phenomena: walk Carnaby Street, where 1960s mod culture flourished; see **David Bowie**'s Brixton birthplace, and visit the exact venues where music history unfolded. Your expert guides reveal fascinating stories behind these musical landmarks, from the **BBC** studios that amplified Britain's sound worldwide to Soho's **L'Escargot**, where rock royalty dined.

At the centrally located Standard Hotel, a London institution, enjoy six nights of stylish accommodations. **To reserve a place**, please contact our tour operator Arrangements Abroad at 212-514-8921 or trips@arrangementsabroad.com.

GET READY FOR THIS JOURNEY THROUGH UK MUSIC HISTORY. SCAN THE QR CODE TO HEAR OUR EXCLUSIVE SPOTIFY PLAYLIST:



TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

GO behind the scenes at the **BBC** with a producer, enjoying an inside look at the historic studios that shaped British popular music through Radio 1, **John Peel's** sessions, and more

DISCOVER the roots of punk with exclusive, pre-opening access to **Dingwalls**, the center of Camden's gritty underground music scene, where America's **Ramones** first emerged with an explosive 1976 performance

ENJOY a guided look at the famous **Abbey Road Studios**, featuring the zebra crossing where the **Beatles** created music history in 1969

PLAY authentic vintage synthesizers at the **Musical Museum** under the guidance of a KORG UK expert, including rare instruments like the 1978 MS-20

VISIT London's storied neighborhoods where music history unfolded, including **Brixton**, **David Bowie's** birthplace, where hundreds gathered for an impromptu all-night tribute after his death

EXPLORE **Carnaby Street**, where the **Rolling Stones**, the **Who**, and **Jimi Hendrix** helped define the Swinging Sixties

WANDER **Chelsea's** elegant streets, where musical history lurks behind unassuming façades—from **Mick Jagger's** favorite King's Road haunts to **Vivienne Westwood's** boutique, birthplace of British punk fashion

WITNESS world-class musical theater in **London's West End**, where Andrew Lloyd Webber's rock-influenced spectacles and epics like *Les Misérables* transformed the genre

SIP Earl Grey at **L'Escargot**, London's oldest French restaurant and the famed Soho gathering spot where **Mick Jagger** and **Elton John** once dined alongside cultural icons Frank Sinatra, Coco Chanel, and Princess Diana

DINE amid musical history at the **Marquis**, a 1638 establishment frequented by Charles Dickens

GATHER for a farewell dinner with live music at **Quaglino's**, the Art Deco restaurant where the Queen and Princess Margaret kept a permanently reserved table



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Jimi Hendrix

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19: DEPARTURE

- Depart on an overnight flight to London.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20: LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

B,L,R

MORNING

- **Arrive at London Heathrow Airport** and transfer to the **Standard Hotel**, conveniently located near the British Museum, Tate Modern, Victoria & Albert Museum, and Selfridges.

AFTERNOON

- After settling in, gather for a **welcome lunch at a traditional London pub**, where you'll meet fellow travelers.
- **London Highlights of Music Walking Tour** – Walk with a music historian to uncover the stories behind legendary venues that have hosted some of the world's most famous musicians. Visit storied pubs once frequented by the **Beatles**, the **Rolling Stones**, and **David Bowie**, and stop at the **Windmill Theatre**, where **Jimi Hendrix** gave his final live performance.

EVENING

- Gather at a **welcome reception**.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21: LONDON

B,T

MORNING

- **Breakfast at the Hotel**
- **Beatles Walking Tour of London** – Relive London's "Swinging Sixties" in the footsteps of the Beatles, exploring the iconic locations where the Fab Four made history. See where the world-famous group honed their talents, from **Abbey Road Studios**, with its instantly recognizable crosswalk, to the spots where classics like "Hey Jude" were recorded.

AFTERNOON

- **Lunch at Leisure**
- **Carnaby Street Walking Music Tour** – Join a music historian in the heart of the 1960s music scene in London on a private walking tour of Carnaby Street. Explore the heart of London's 1960s music scene, where the Rolling Stones, the Kinks, the Who, and Hendrix made their mark at legendary venues like the **Marquee Club** on Wardour Street.
- **Tea at L'Escargot** – Savor British fare with a Parisian twist at L'Escargot, London's oldest French restaurant, once a favorite of **Mick Jagger**, **Sir Elton John**, and **Princess Diana**. Delight in finger sandwiches and freshly baked raisin scones with clotted cream and English jam, accompanied by Earl Grey Imperial or English Breakfast tea.

EVENING

- **Dinner at Leisure**



The Beatles, Abbey Road album sleeve



The Marquis

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22: LONDON

B,D

MORNING

- **Breakfast at the Hotel**
- **Guided Tour of Brixton** – Explore Brixton, where **David Bowie** was born on 40 Stansfield Road. Renowned personalities such as **Bob Marley**, **Charlie Chaplin**, and **Vincent van Gogh** called this vibrant neighborhood home for a time. Absorb the area's music, food, and street art. Learn about Brixton's rich Jewish, African, Afro-Caribbean, and Chinese heritage, followed by a tour of its famous street markets.
- **Guided Tour of the BBC** – Join a BBC producer for an inside look at the network's century-long impact on British music. Learn how the BBC influenced the nation's musical culture—from boosting morale during World War II to launching new artists on platforms like Radio 1.

AFTERNOON

- **Lunch at Leisure**

EVENING

- **Dinner and live music at the Marquis in Covent Garden** – Just steps from Trafalgar Square, the Marquis has welcomed guests since 1638, including **Charles Dickens**. Settle in for a home-cooked meal in this historic pub and enjoy an evening of live music from rising London artists.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23: LONDON

B,D

MORNING

- **Breakfast at the Hotel**
- **Private Visit and Hands-On Experience at the Musical Museum** – Take a private tour of the Musical Museum with an expert from KORG UK, the famous instrument manufacturer. See the museum's collection, from early instruments to the powerful Wurlitzer theater organ. Learn about the development of synthesizers—and even enjoy a hands-on experience playing one for yourself.

AFTERNOON

- **Lunch at Leisure**
- **Afternoon at Leisure** – Spend the afternoon exploring at your own pace. You may visit such sites as the **British Museum**, home to two million years of history spanning six continents, and the **Tate Modern**, one of the world's most influential museums, known for the world's largest assemblage of JMW Turner paintings.

EVENING

- **Dinner**
- **West End Theater Evening** – Experience the legendary London stage by attending a critically acclaimed musical in one of the West End's historic venues.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24: LONDON

B,L

MORNING

- **Breakfast at the Hotel**
- **Private Walking Tour of Chelsea & Kensington** – Join a leading music historian for a deep dive into London's 1960s-1980s music scene, where rock, punk, and glam flourished. Discover the inspirations behind hundreds of classic songs. Walk the same streets the Rolling Stones traveled in their early years and visit key sites linked to **Freddie Mercury**, **Jimmy Page**, and **Eric Clapton**.

AFTERNOON

- **Lunch aboard the Cheese Barge** – Head to the Paddington Basin for a meal aboard the Cheese Barge, a 96-foot double-decker inspired by Venice's Electa bookstore, featuring seasonal dishes that spotlight British cheeses. Sample Whitelake Goat's Curd, Whipped St. James Feta Bruschetta, or an indulgent grilled cheese sandwich made with the finest British cheeses.
- **Afternoon at Leisure** – You may spend the afternoon exploring the **Victoria & Albert Museum**, with its six stories of galleries and 12 miles of corridors. View works like Dale Chihuly's *V&A Rotunda Chandelier* and the seven-foot-tall *Samson Slaying a Philistine*, Florentine sculptor Giambologna's first major commission.

EVENING

- **Dinner at Leisure**





Dingwalls



Quaglino's

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25: LONDON

B,L,D

MORNING

- **Breakfast at the Hotel**
- **Morning at Leisure** – At your own pace, explore London landmarks such as the Tower of London, Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, Big Ben, Trafalgar Square, and St. Paul's Cathedral. Alternatively, take a stroll along the Thames, passing landmarks like the London Eye and Shakespeare's Globe.

AFTERNOON

- **Lunch at Camden Market** – Enjoy a sit-down meal at your choice among Camden Market's diverse cafés, bars, and street-food stalls, within repurposed Victorian stables and warehouses.
- **"Birth of Punk" Walking Tour of Camden** – Enjoy a guided tour of this earthy neighborhood where bands like the **Sex Pistols** and the **Clash** rose to fame. Visit famous venues such as the Roundhouse and Camden Assembly. A highlight will be **special access to Dingwalls** before opening hours. This venue helped launch punk rock with acts like the **Stranglers** and the **Ramones**.
- **Time at Leisure** – Enjoy a relaxing afternoon, visit local landmarks, or conclude your shopping with a visit to the celebrated **Selfridges** department store.

EVENING

- **Festive Dinner at Quaglino's** – Dine at Quaglino's, a glamorous Art Deco institution once favored by **Queen Elizabeth II** and **Princess Margaret**. Ascend its sweeping staircase to an elegant main room. Enjoy live music while you indulge in contemporary European cuisine and classic cocktails. Raise a glass in a final toast to your London music journey.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26: LONDON / RETURN

B

MORNING

- **Breakfast at the Hotel.**
- **Depart the hotel** and transfer to Heathrow Airport for your return flight home.

PROGRAM RATE

\$6,499 per person, double rate

\$8,299 single rate

RATE INCLUDES

- Six nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, T=Tea, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine at welcome and farewell dinners
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for participants on arrival and departure days
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATE International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than what is noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.



**NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
LONDON CALLING
OCTOBER 19 – 26, 2025
RESERVATION FORM**

ACCOMMODATIONS

THE STANDARD HOTEL, LONDON

This London institution blends contemporary style with retro flair. Set in King’s Cross near the city’s top landmarks, the Standard combines playful interiors, bold colors, and mid-century influences for a lively, modern feel. Sip cocktails at the lively Double Standard bar or indulge in Spanish-Mexican flavors at Decimo.



The Queen of Queens room, The Standard Hotel, London

To reserve a place, please call Arrangements Abroad at 212-514-8921 or 800-221-1944; email: trips@arrangementsabroad.com; fax: 212-344-7493; or complete and return this form with your deposit of \$2,000 per person (of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to Arrangements Abroad. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

Address

City State Zip

Telephone (home) (business)

Fax E-mail

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel Room Preference One bed Two beds Single

I wish to share a room with

FORM OF PAYMENT

Enclosed is my check (payable to Arrangements Abroad)
 Debit card Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the Terms & Conditions of this Program (see www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date

DISCLAIMER: The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Northern Illinois University and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.

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Activity Level:

Pace Level:



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Front cover: David Bowie mural by James Cochran, Brixton.

London Calling page: Mixing board, Abbey Road Studios.

Highlights page: Brixton

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