

chief minister to King James I. Elizabeth I spent much of her childhood there and was later a prisoner at Hatfield. Rare tapestries, fine paintings, and historic armor still remain. Hatfield House can accommodate up to 250 for Elizabethan banquets at £8 (about \$15) per person during the week and £9.50 (\$18) on weekends. For smaller groups, about 50 persons, the cost is £12 (\$23). In the summer, the actors enact a Shakespearean scene in the courtyard surrounded by lush gardens.

Day Two

This morning's sightseeing tour of the city of London includes the Tower of London, St. Paul's Cathedral, and the Old Curiosity Shop popularized by Charles Dickens.

Lunch is held at a typical English pub, such as Dickens Inn, where the group can enjoy shepherd's pie (ground beef cooked in gravy with potato topping), smoked mackerel, mussels, Ploughman's Lunch (bread, butter, cheese, and pickles or relish), and beer or cider, of course, for just a few dollars.

In the afternoon, a private tour of Harrods, the well-known department store, is available followed by free time to shop in any of London's exclusive shopping areas, including Knightsbridge, Regent, and Bond streets.

Seats are reserved in the evening at one of London's 60 theaters. A dinner is arranged either before or following at the Cafe Royal, which is centrally located on Regent St., is within walking distance to the theater district, and has seven floors of dining rooms (a total of 21). Five of these rooms hold from 100 to 700 persons for a seated dinner, and they have been completely redecorated within the past year. Generally, the price ranges from £11.75 to £18 a head (about \$22-\$35), but that would depend upon the menu, wine, and other details.

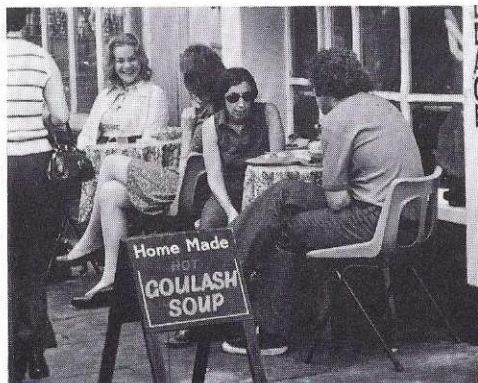
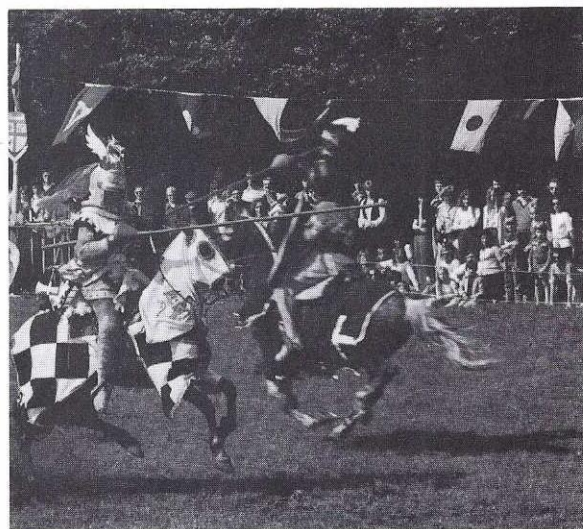
Day Three

Coaches take the group on a morning tour of London's West End, which includes the Houses of Parliament, Trafalgar Square, Westminster Abbey, and the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace.

Lunch in a London pub costs about \$5, and the afternoon can be used to explore London's art galleries and museums or for additional shopping or sightseeing.

A very special setting for a final dinner in London is any of the city's livery halls. City companies originated in the medieval craft guilds, which enforced rules and regulations for apprentices and formulated and implemented standards of

At Knebworth House outside London incentive travelers are offered special theme presentations ranging from Edwardian garden parties to Dickens Evenings, Elizabethan banquets, and medieval jousts (right). Below, tourists can enjoy cuisines from all over the world at the restaurants in Shepherd's Market in the fashionable Mayfair section of London.



craftsmanship that have survived industrial progress. Each company comprises a court, a livery, and freemen, and many of these still have connections with their traditional crafts. Thirty-one of these companies have their own halls, but only 16 survived World War II. Many have since been restored. These halls still house valuable treasures acquired by the companies over the years. Some of the livery halls are available for group functions (many with certain specifications) since the revenue is needed for their upkeep.

For a final evening in London, steeped in tradition, check out one of the following livery halls. All are catered by Ring & Brymer Ltd. Food and wine run approximately £15 a head (just under \$30) and up but vary according to menu, wine selection, and available kitchen facilities. They also provide kosher catering.

The Bakers Hall is one of the oldest livery halls, dating back to the first half of the 12th century. They still pay six loaves of bread annually for rent and take a great interest in the trade, but they are no longer the governing body. The present hall was built after the Second World War and opened in 1963. It seats 77. The tariff is £70 (\$140) for the hall plus food and beverage. Rates for the other halls are in the same price range. The hall has three Joan Piper stained-glass windows, the only

ones in the city of London. In keeping with tradition, the courtroom downstairs still meets on certain days, but it can also be used for small dinner or cocktail parties or meetings. The hall comes alive with six centuries of history.

The Skinners Hall, housing the guild of the furriers, was built after the Great Fire of 1666. Part of it was severely damaged in World War II and was then rebuilt. The entrance is through a quiet courtyard. The hall contains many treasures, including antiques and paintings. The main livery hall seats 160 for dinner and 450 for receptions, and there are smaller rooms that can be used for meetings.

Some of the other large halls include the Plaisterers Hall, which opened in 1970. Their dining capacity is 300, and they can seat 600 for receptions and 450 for buffets. However, they permit bankers, insurance brokers, and financiers only. The Merchant Taylors Hall, which was gutted by the Great Fire and was then damaged extensively by bombs in 1940, reopened in 1959. The kitchen has been used continuously since 1425, and parts of the three original floors have been preserved. All commercial companies are accepted in this hall. The Fishmongers Hall belongs to one of the few companies that carry out the original duties of their craft. They still examine all fish coming into