

Sarasota Ballet Dances its Way to London

June 4-10th, 2024



You are cordially invited to join **The Sarasota Ballet** for a specially curated Patron Tour to watch your beloved Company perform in London England at the prestigious Royal Opera House Linbury Theatre. The Patron Tour will take place from June 4th through June 10th as The Sarasota Ballet participates by special invitation of The Royal Ballet to commence a 5 year festival named Ashton Celebrated that will pay tribute to The Royal Ballet's Founding Choreographer, Sir Frederick Ashton. The company will perform works such as *Valses Nobles et Sentimentales*, *Dante Sonata*, *Sinfonietta* and *Façade*, among others.

This once in a lifetime opportunity will include a VIP experience, including tickets to the two unique programs performed by The Sarasota Ballet, tickets to The Royal Ballet Ashton program featuring a performance by The Sarasota Ballet on the Royal Opera House Main Stage, and The Sarasota Ballet's London Gala performance which will feature dancers of The Royal Ballet. Additionally, you will experience a behind the scenes tour of White Lodge which is home to the prestigious Royal Ballet Lower School, and

a specially curated backstage tour of The Royal Opera House.

London is the European center of the arts world. The tour will include special daily programming for patrons to experience preeminent art exhibitions with the guidance of Artful Jaunts. An art educator from Artful Jaunts will lead you on optional daily excursions around London visiting museums and galleries, such as **The Tate Britain, The British Museum, The National Gallery, The Courtauld Gallery, The Somerset House**, and contemporary art galleries. These daily outings will allow you to see the best of the London art scene.

The tour will also include three Patron dinners, starting with a welcome dinner at The Royal Opera House's **Piazza** Restaurant, dinner at **The Ivy**, a Cocktail Reception following the Gala Performance, and culminate with a private Tour Finale Celebration at the Grand Salon at **Balthazar**. In addition, there will be two lunches included in the program including an English pub experience at **Boathouse** overlooking the Thames, and a quintessential British experience - **high tea**.



The Patron group will stay at the **NoMad hotel** in London, England for seven nights. The NoMad was recently named as one of the fifty best hotels in the world. Located forty feet from The Royal Opera House, the NoMad London is both a sophisticated and hip hotel with a spectacular restaurant, three unique and lively bars, and a wellness studio to enjoy at your leisure.

Travelers should arrive **TUESDAY**, June 4th. Travel from the airport is at your own leisure, to the NoMad London hotel where your room will be ready when you arrive in the morning. You will have the day to relax from your flight with the afternoon at your leisure. A list of optional activities will be provided for the week. Our evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the lobby where we will walk across the street to enjoy our welcome dinner at the Royal Opera House (ROH). Following dinner, we will be steps from the Linbury Theatre where you will watch The Sarasota Ballet perform Program 1 which features *Valses Nobles et Sentimentales*, *Dante Sonata*, and *Sinfonietta*.



On **WEDNESDAY**, we will depart early by luxury coach for a special morning at **White Lodge**, The Royal Ballet Lower School in scenic Richmond Park. Here patrons will be treated to a special private tour of White Lodge as well as the rare opportunity to watch a class in session. We will depart White Lodge for a traditional English lunch at **Boathouse** along the Thames River in the town of Putney. The Boathouse is a perfect example of a charming British pub. Whether you want a pint or glass of white wine, they both will pair perfectly with a plate of Fish N' Chips. The final stop on our way back to the hotel will be at either the **Tate Britain**, the **Victoria & Albert Museum**, or the **Hayward Gallery** depending on the current exhibitions. After you are dropped off at the hotel, you will have the remainder of the afternoon on your own and the ability to dine at your leisure whether at the hotel or a local spot from our recommended dining list.



On **THURSDAY**, patrons will have an opportunity to attend a morning of art programming led by **Andrea Feldman Falcione**, art educator from Artful Jaunts. Andrea will lead guests through the **British Museum** and leading contemporary galleries walking everyone back to the hotel, or perhaps you will break off for a lunch in Mayfair at The Wolseley or Maison François. The afternoon is on your own to enjoy the wellness center at the hotel, read a book in their library or explore the city on your own. We will reconvene as a group at 5:30 p.m. for a beautiful private dinner at **The Ivy**, a landmark restaurant with over a century of history in Covent Garden. At 7:45 p.m. you will attend The Sarasota Ballet's Program 2, featuring *Valses Nobles et Sentimentales*, a selection of Ashton Divertissements, and *Façade*.



On **FRIDAY** morning patrons will return to **The Royal Opera House** for an intimate behind the scenes tour of the venue with a focus on the Ballet. You will learn the history and tour the multiple performance stages, dressing rooms filled with costumes, and more on this hour plus exploration of this historic institution. Lunch will be at a neighborhood spot and a short walk from the theater, known for its fresh bread and simple European fare. If you would like a rest, you are five minutes from the hotel. Can't get enough of London? Continue with Andrea to nearby local gems **Courtauld Gallery** and adjacent **Somerset House**. Courtauld's collection which spans from the Middle Ages to the present is known for its world class collection of impressionist and post-impressionist works. After a nice break at the hotel, patrons will have dinner on their own. We will meet at the hotel lobby at 7:00 p.m. to walk together to the 7:30 p.m. performance. Friday's program will shift to the **Covent Garden Main Stage** where we have an opportunity to watch The Royal Ballet perform *The Dream*, a selection of Ashton Divertissements including The Sarasota Ballet performing *The Walk to the Paradise Garden*, and *Rhapsody*.

The tour will be offered on **SATURDAY** with another half day of optional programming from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. where you will have a short 10-minute walk to the world-renowned **National Gallery** and **National Portrait Gallery**. Andrea will provide a curated walk through these two institutions, starting with the National Gallery which will have just celebrated its bicentennial and is known for its wealth of treasures from Vermeer to Monet. The National Portrait Gallery shines like never before after its recent major renovation, and we will explore its many famous portraits. Lunch and the afternoon is at your leisure. Have fun, but be sure to rest up for the finale dinner at **Balthazar** in their private Grand Salon room where we will be exchanging favorite moments of the week before attending the Gala Performance where The Sarasota Ballet will perform with Guest Artists from The Royal Ballet. The Gala will feature *Valses Nobles et Sentimentales*, *Varii Capricci*, an Ashton Solo performed by The Royal Ballet and *Façade*. Following this exhilarating and historic performance, you will be invited to the exclusive Gala Cocktail Reception at The Royal Opera House alongside other Premium Gala Ticket holders, Royal Ballet guests, and the dancers of The Sarasota Ballet.



Bottom left: Sarasota Ballet dancers via sarasotaballet.org

On **SUNDAY**, the morning and lunch are on your own. After lunch we will come together on the final day of programming for an English tea, a fitting conclusion to a week in England. After experiencing the iconic English tradition, we will come together for a sensational London Tour Finale Reception where you can celebrate this momentous moment in the history of The Sarasota Ballet with all the staff and dancers of The Sarasota Ballet. Sunday dinner will then be for you to take of advantage of your last night in London.

MONDAY is your departure day unless you choose to extend your stay. The hotel check-out time is 11 a.m. The concierge can book you a car, or if you are adventurous, can provide instructions to take the Heathrow Express from Paddington Station to the airport.

Thank you for joining The Sarasota Ballet on our first international Tour!

This Sarasota Ballet London experience is \$9,560 per person (inclusive of a \$1,000 donation per person to The Sarasota Ballet) in a double room share; and \$11,822 for a single traveler (inclusive of a \$1,000 donation per person to The Sarasota Ballet). The Patron Tour is limited to 35 attendees. Bookings will be accepted on a first come, first served basis until full. **Your booking is requested by November 10th, 2023. The next group will be invited to register on November 11th and so on.**

All programming may change and is subject to availability of hosts and venues. No refund will be provided for cancellations within sixty days of the trip's start date. If the ballet has another patron to fill a spot, a substitution will be allowed. After the trip has commenced, no refunds are available, even if the client does not partake in all the trip's activities or leaves the trip early.

We highly recommend trip insurance offered when booking.

Your Sarasota Ballet contact is Maya Collins (mcollins@sarasotaballet.org or 941-359-0099 Ext. 110). Your Artful Jaunts contact is Latasha Thomas (latasha@artfuljaunts.com or 781-658-2270). Please reach out to either if you have any questions.