



# A Trip to London

**London Top 5 Sights**



# Tower Bridge

## Tower Bridge Facts:

**Completion:** 1894

**Construction period:** 8 years

**Length of the bridge:** 244 m

**Height of the towers:** 65 m

**Height of the pedestrian walkway:** 43 m

**Height of the road:** 9 m

Every day approx. 40,000 vehicles are crossing the Thames over the Tower Bridge. The opening and closing takes about **5 minutes** and it happens around **1000 times** a year.



A walk across the **Tower Bridge** is a must do for every first time London visitor. It takes around **5 minutes** by foot to get there from the closest situated underground station **Tower Hill**. You can't miss this popular **landmark** if you walk by the east side of the **Tower Fortress**. After crossing the bridge, you will face some stairs leading down to the **Queen's Walk** at the south bank of the river **Thames**. There is the **Potters Fields Park** which is located right in front of the **Town Hall**. This nice **green area** offers a **good view** at the Tower Bridge, perfect for a **souvenir photo** of the famous Thames bridge.

The **Tower Bridge Exhibition** charges an entrance fee of approx. **9.80 £** per person. The highlight of the exhibition is the pedestrian **walkway** with a **glass bottom** floor. This passage is located **34m** above the road surface and offers an **panoramic view** at the banks of the river Thames and this unique **bascule bridge**. If you have the possibility to plan your visit **flexibly**, consider the schedule with the **bridge lift times**. The opening and closing of the bridge takes around **5 minutes** and is especially impressive from this **perspective**.

For all those interested in technology, there is another highlight, the **original engine room**. There you can have a look at the old **steam engines** which powered the bridge mechanism until **1976**.

# London Eye



## London Eye Facts:

**Completion:** 2000

**Construction Period:** 2 years

**Height:** 135 m

**Wheel Diameter:** 120 m

**Number of Capsules:** 32

The London Eye rotates continuously at approx. **0.26 m/s** circumferential speed. The duration for a complete rotation takes about **30 minutes**. Due to the maximum amount of **25 visitors** in one **capsule** up to **1600** people can be transported in this attraction within an **hour**.



The very popular wheel is located at the **south bank** of the river **Thames** beside a small park, the **Jubilee Gardens**. Nearby you can find the Golden Jubilee Bridge. This **pedestrian bridge** across the Thames offers a **good view** at the London Eye and the surroundings. **How long** are the queue times? This is a question which most of the London Eye **visitors** are interested in. In average you should calculate approx. **30 minutes** for waiting in a queue. The waiting times may exceed **2 hours** when there is a **rush of visitors**. Especially on weekends, at fair weather and during the holidays you should expect long queuing times. Several visitors reported **short queue lines** after the opening in the **morning** and in the evening **after 17:00** o'clock. If you don't want to **waste time** with queuing in any case you should consider to buy the Fast Track Tickets which are a bit more expensive. If possible you should order the **tickets online**, at least 1 day in advance. This is not only **cheaper**, but also helps you to **avoid** the additional **queuing line** at the **ticket office**.

# Buckingham m Palace



## **Buckingham Palace Facts:**

**Start of construction:** 1826

**Royal residence since:** 1837

**Building width at the front:** 108 m

**Building length:** 120 m

**Number of rooms:** 775

More than **50,000** guests visit the palace **every year** during different **events** like banquets, dinners and garden parties.

The **Ballroom** is the largest room in the **Buckingham Palace** with a length of **36.6 m**, a width of **18 m** and a height of **13.5 m**.



**Which** areas of the Buckingham Palace are open for **tours**?

Unfortunately most time of the year the **premises** of the palace are **not open** for the public. Only during the **summer time**, usually in August and September, the **State Rooms** are open for tours to the public. During the rest of the year the State Rooms are used for **official reception** in the palace. The entrance fee is about **24 £** and can be booked online in advance. If you are interested in a tour, you should book tickets **on time** because there is only a limited number of tickets available, and they are quickly sold out. At the booking you have to specify the **exact day** and **time** of your visit. If you are a **garden enthusiast** then you should take the opportunity and add to your ticket through the State Rooms a **guided tour** through the impressive **palace gardens**.

**Two museums**, which are open nearly throughout the whole year, are located on the grounds of the Buckingham Palace in London. The **Queen's Gallery** presents different artworks from the **Royal Collection**. The exhibition objects **change** every couple of months and are usually **thematically** composed. The **Royal Mews** takes care of the **road transportation** for the Royal Family. At a visit you have the chance to see magnificent historical **carriages**, some **limousines**, the stables of the **horses** and other related things.

The **Changing of the Guard** in front of the Buckingham Palace is the event which attracts **most** of the **visitors** to this sight. Do not miss

# Big Ben & Houses of Parliament



## Big Ben Facts:

**Completion:** 1858

**Tower height:** 96 m

**Bell weight:** 13.5 t

Although the whole clock tower is usually named as Big Ben, this is just the **name** of the **bell**. The official name of the **clock tower** is **Elizabeth Tower**.

## Houses of Parliament Facts:

**Ground area of the building:** 32400 m<sup>2</sup>

**Number of rooms:** approx. 1100

The Parliament building complex is the **Palace of Westminster** and is often simply called the **Houses of Parliament**.



A **Big Ben** clock tower **tour** is unfortunately **not possible** for foreign tourists. Locals can contact their member of Parliament to request a visit permit.

Nevertheless, due to its popularity the **Big Ben** is part of the typical **sightseeing program**. Following places offer a **good view** of this well known photo subject: **Albert Embankment** (opposite River Thames bank), **Westminster Bridge**, **Victoria Embankment** crossing Bridge Street and **Parliament Square**.

At the **Houses of Parliament** you can choose between various possibilities for a **tour**. You can watch committees and debates for free in the **House of Commons** and the **House of Lords**. These take place during the week. No meetings are held on **Saturdays** and during the summer break from the **end of July** until the beginning of **October**. On those days you have the opportunity to **visit some premises** of the parliament at a guided tour or with an audio guide. Both versions are offered in different languages. The guided tour costs approx. **28 £** and a visit with the **audio guide** approx. **20 £**. The **visitor entrance** for the Houses of Parliament is located in the **St Margaret Street**.

Links with details and current times are available below.

**Tip:** You should not only have a look at the **Big Ben**, you should also **hear this attraction**. The famous **Westminster chime** sounds at the beginning of each full hour before the bell rings the number of hours. The **Westminster Bridge** is a good place for that. From there, you can also enjoy the **view** and shoot **souvenir photos** of the **Big Ben** and the **Houses of**

# Tower of



## **T**ower of London Facts:

**Start of construction:** 1220  
(origin of the castle)

**Total area:** approx. 73,000 m<sup>2</sup>

**Tower height:** 27 m (White Tower)

Every year **2.5 million** visitors come to the Tower where at least **6 ravens** are kept.

According a legend the **British Kingdom ends** if there are no ravens in the castle.



The **main entrance** is located on the **west side** of the castle, nearby the Thames river bank. It is directly accessible from the **underground station** Tower Hill by a **underpass**. You will find different **museums, exhibitions** and fascinating **historical premises** at the Tower of London area. If you are interested in history you should plan at least **half a day** for the **sightseeing** at this place.

### **What are the best highlights?**

The **Crown Jewels** is the most popular highlight in the Tower of London. Therefore, you will face most of the time a **long queue**. Unfortunately you have only a limited time to look at the **treasures** as you have to use a **conveyor belt** to pass by the **Crown Jewels**.

The **Yeoman Warder Tour** lasts about **1 hour** and you pass different stations on the **grounds** of the **Tower of London**. Thereby you obtain various **information** about the history of the castle and also some **scary stories**. This is usually presented very humorous by a Yeoman Warder **guide in uniform**. These guys are also called **Beefeater**. The guided tour is offered only in **English language** and starts every half an hour till **15:30** in summer and till **14:30** o'clock in winter.

The **White Tower** is located in the **middle** of the **site** and is therefore the **name giver** for the whole Tower of London area. Today you will find there the **Royal Armory** with many historical exhibits.

The **Tower torture** leads back into a **terrible past**. At that time, the castle served as a **dungeon** with brutal methods of torture. Today some **instruments of torture replicas** are displayed at the foot of the Wakefield Tower.

The **entrance fee** for this attraction costs approx. **21.50 £** per adult if you purchase the tickets online. The **audio guide**, which is available in **different languages**, is charged additionally and costs approx. **4 £**.

Due to the high cost and the usual **visitor rush**, which causes some **waiting times**, not everybody will be satisfied by the visit. But if you have a basic **interest in history** there are a lot