

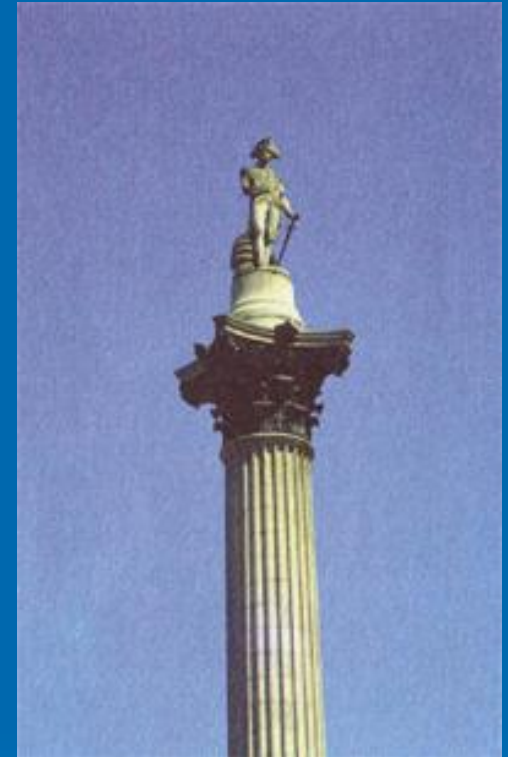
London Sightseeing Tour



The Map of London



Trafalgar Square



- We start from Trafalgar Square. It is the natural center of London. The square was so named to commemorate Nelson's victory at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. On the column in the center there is a statue of Admiral Nelson. It is 16 feet high.
- Trafalgar Square is also a popular place for political and other demonstrations. When there are no demonstrations, the square is full of visitors feeding the pigeons.

The National Gallery.



- To the left you can see the National Gallery. It has a collection of Italian, Dutch, German and French pictures. It has pictures of all European schools of art such as works by Rembrandt, Rubens, and El Greco. The gallery is open seven days a week and admission is free.

The Buckingham Palace.



- The Buckingham Palace is the Royal residence. It is now the official home of Queen Elizabeth and the British Royal Family.
- There are nearly six hundred rooms in the palace and three miles of red carpet.
- The Buckingham Palace is like a small town, with a police station, two post offices, a hospital, a bar, two sport clubs, a disco, a cinema and a swimming pool. About 700 people work for the palace.

St. James's Park.



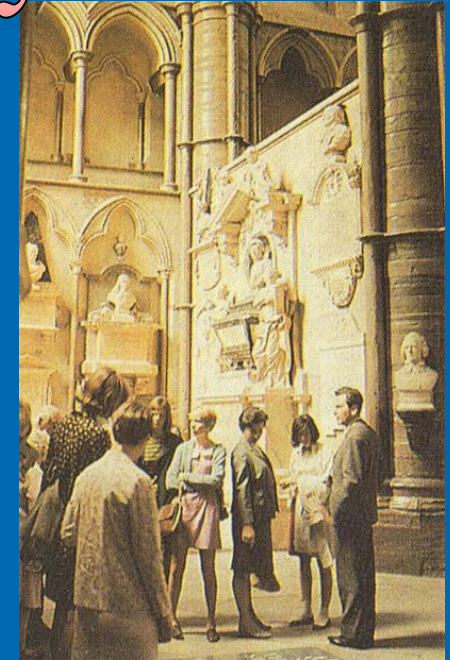
- St. James's Park is the oldest and the smallest of the royal parks. It is near Buckingham Palace. There is a lake there which is famous for its water-birds. The pelicans were originally given to Charles II by a Russian ambassador.
- Hundreds of people who work in the offices nearby come to this park to rest and eat their lunch.

The Houses of Parliament and Big Ben.



- You can see the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben.
- The Houses of Parliament is the seat of British government. It is the largest modern building in the richest Gothic style completed in 1857. It stands on the left bank of the River Thames and is 940 feet in length.
- Big Ben is one of the famous clocks in the world. The tower of Big Ben is often used as a symbol of Britain.

Westminster Abbey.



- Westminster Abbey is a fine Gothic building, which stands opposite the Houses of Parliament.
- It is a royal church. Almost all English kings and queens since William I have been crowned in the Abbey and many famous people are buried here. Here you can see the tombs of many British kings and queens.
- Westminster Abbey is also known for its Poet's Corner. There many of the greatest writers are buried: Kipling, Dickens, Hardy and Chaucer. There are monuments to William Shakespeare, Walter Scott, Robert Burns and Lord Byron.

The Tower of London.



- The Tower on the north bank of the Thames is one of the ancient buildings of London. It was founded in the 11th century by [William the Conqueror](#).
- For many centuries the Tower has been [a fortress](#), a palace, [a prison](#) and [Royal Mint](#).
- It is now a museum of [arms](#).
- [The ravens](#) are another famous sight. The legend says that without them the Tower will fall. The Raven Master is the person who gives them food.

St. Paul's Cathedral.



- St. Paul's Cathedral is the work of the famous architect Christopher Wren. It is said to be one of the finest pieces of architecture in Europe. It is the largest Protestant Church in England.
- From far away you can see the big dome with a golden ball and cross on the top.
- The interior of the Cathedral is very beautiful. It is full of monuments.
- After looking around you can climb 263 steps to the Whispering Gallery.
- The Cathedral contains a number of famous tombs and memorials. Buried here Nelson, Wellington, Christopher Wren.

Hyde Park.



- Hyde Park is a royal park since 1536. It has 146 hectares of parkland, and people are allowed to walk or sit and lie on the grass.
- The Serpentine is a lake in the middle of the park. In summer you can swim in the Serpentine or go out in a boat. It is a custom for some people to swim in it on Christmas Day.
- Hyde Park is famous for its Speaker's Corner, where people go when they want to tell other people about their political opinions.

Piccadilly Circus.



- Now we are coming to Piccadilly Circus. It is the meeting point of six streets. It is called a circus because it is round.
- Within a few yards of it we find most of London's best-known theatres, cinemas and most famous restaurants. Piccadilly Circus at night is a colourful sight.
- In the square you can see people of many nationalities and hear a lot of languages.
- In the evening Piccadilly Circus is full of people going to the theatre, cinema or to a restaurant.



Our excursion is over.

Good-bye!

