

Sightseeing of London



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High resolution view from the top of Tolworth tower over the sprawling suburban housing that is typical in some areas of Greater London

London is the capital of Great Britain, its political, economic and cultural centre. It is one of the largest cities in the world. Its population is more than 11 000 000 people. London is situated on the river Thames.

The city is very old and beautiful. It was founded more than two thousand years ago.

Traditionally London is divided into several parts: the City, the Westminster, the West End and the East End.

The City is the oldest part of London, its financial and business centre.

The Westminster is the aristocratic official part of London. It includes Buckingham Palace, where the Queen lives, and the Houses of Parliament.

London

London is one of the most world's enjoyable cities. Visited by tourists in the millions, the city offers them an astonishing variety of scenes. In this historic city the modern rubs shoulders with the old, the present is ever conscious of the past. London survived the Plague, which killed nearly 100 000 people, and the Great fire which followed. Also the World War II brought tremendous destruction. Many of historical buildings were laid in ruins and today the face of London is changed. London has buildings that express all the different areas of its history, for London manages in a unique way to reflect its past and at the same time to fulfill the functions of a modern city. There is always something new to be discovered, some fresh approach to a familiar scene, some curious piece of its history to be investigated. London is a very beautiful city and there are many styles in its architecture, such as Norman, Gothic, Classical, Victorian, Modern style.



St. Paul's Cathedral has always dominated the center of London. Londoners have a particular affection for St. Paul's, which is the largest protestant church in England.

Cathedral



Cathedral

St. Paul's Cathedral is in the centre of London and is considered to be an architectural masterpiece.

After the Great Fire the City had to be built again. The commission of six architects was organized for the rebuilding and Sir Christopher Wren was the most talented of them. This architect drew a plan which greatly determined the look of today's London though it was not realized in every detail. It was forbidden to build wooden houses in the City of London.

St. Paul's Cathedral was the greatest work of **Sir Christopher Wren**. It is one of the largest churches in the world. Sir Wren was building the Cathedral for 35 years, completed it in 1711, and his aim was to build a church that could rival the great **St. Peter Basilica** in Rome. St. Paul was built of white stone as well as many other buildings in the City of London. But smoke and soot made the stones black and only the columns and edges were washed by the rain and remained white. That is how the building got its peculiar white-and-black look.

On top of St. Paul's Cathedral is a high dome, which contains **the Whispering Gallery**, where whisper can be heard at a great distance.



The Clock Tower, which contains the hour-bell called “Big Ben”, is known the world over.

Big Ben



During the reign of Edward the Confessor the Palace of Westminster was built.

It was the royal residence and also the country's main court. The Parliament met here since the 16th till the 19th century.

The present Houses of Parliament were built after the fire in the Palace of Westminster in 1834. There are two houses in the Parliament: the House of Lords and the House of Commons.

St. Stephen's Tower of the Houses of Parliament contains the famous Big Ben.

The Palace of Westminster contains many interesting features. Among its most popular aspects you will find Victoria Tower, the tallest tower of Westminster Palace named after Queen Victoria, the reigning monarch at the time the palace was reconstructed. Today the tower holds the parliamentary archives since 1497.

Iconic Big Ben, named after its largest bell, is by far the most famous part of the palace. The clock tower's five bells chime every quarter hour, while the largest bell, Big Ben strikes every hour.

The Norman style is famous for its massive columns and simple decoration. The example of it is the Tower of London, which is the most ancient building in



London

The Tower of London, founded by William the Conqueror over a thousand years ago, boasts of a rich and rather controversial history. It was the place Anne Boleyn was executed, Guy Fawkes was interrogated and Elizabeth I Richard II was imprisoned. Standing guard by the Thames, the Tower of London is a place that offers some truly impressive sightseeing. Visitors can discover for themselves the secrets of this Tower, marvel at the splendid crown jewels and explore the places of historical significance, myths and legends. With its rich and diverse history, there is absolutely no doubt as to why Tower of London has been cited as one of the most historically important places for tourists.

London



One of the oldest and most well conserved buildings of the world, the Tower of London served as a means of protecting England from its enemies in addition to being the palace of the royal family. On a trip to the Tower of London, you must ensure that you simply don't miss out on some of the must-see spots. Among this is the White Tower, which is perhaps, the most distinctive feature of the Tower and is one of the very prominent castle keeps in the entire world. The Crown of Jewels is another place you would never want to leave out, particularly because you may never see such a beautiful collection of diamonds all in one place. You may also take a walk along The Fortress and visit the unspoiled Medieval Palace.

You can also take the East Wall Walk on the massive inner wall while exploring the four towers and the mysterious graffiti on the walls. The Yeoman Warders, one of the proud symbols of the Tower, is another place of amazing interest. One of the most mysterious and rather sinister aspects of the Tower is The Ravens which has left people baffled with the belief that if the ravens were to leave the Tower, the kingdom would fall. Another key attraction of the Tower is the Tower Green, which was where some of Britain's most famous people were beheaded.

Buckingham Palace (the Palace) is the official London residence of the Queen and the Royal family. When the Queen is at the residence the flag is flying on top of Buckingham Palace. It was a country residence of the Duke of Buckingham. But in the 19th century it was rebuilt for King George. The square in front of the Palace is decorated with **Victoria Memorial** built in 1911.

Palace



Palace

Including 52 Royal and guest bedrooms, 78 bathrooms, 92 offices, 188 staff bedrooms and 19 state rooms, Buckingham Palace has a total of 775 rooms. Although in use for many official ceremonies, the state rooms are open to the public every year. The rooms are decorated with priceless works of art from the Royal Collection. Buckingham Palace is no mere show piece; it is a functional palace housing the offices of the staff who organize the activities and duties of the Royal family. Buckingham palace is also the venue for many Royal ceremonies and State Visits, all organized by the palace staff.

Every year around 50,000 guests are entertained at the palace. Buckingham palace is also home to the largest private gardens in London, containing its own artificial lake. It is the venue for two or three garden parties held every summer, hosted by the queen. The changing of the guard is a popular attraction. It is a ceremony held in the forecourt everyday during the summer and every other day in the winter.



Westminster Abbey, is London's oldest religious building. Its origins go back over 1,000 years to 970AD when a community of monks was established by St Dunstan. A stone monastery was built on the site in 1050 by Edward the Confessor.

The Abbey became the coronation site for the Norman Kings and was then substantially developed in the Anglo-French gothic style by Henry III who chose the Abbey as his place of burial. The Abbey has been the traditional place for the coronation and burial of English and latterly British monarchs ever since.

Abbey



Abbey

Westminster area is also called the City of Westminster. It is the most important part of London, where Parliament and most government offices are located.

Westminster Abbey is regarded as the centre of this area. They say the City was founded here near the monastery as far back as the 7th century.

In the 11th century King Edward the Confessor decided to build a great abbey church there. It was a monastery for a long time.

William the Conqueror was crowned there and since then many kings and queens of England followed this tradition. There is the ancient Coronation Chair beneath which there is the **Stone of Scone** (the ancient Scottish Coronation Throne that was brought to England by King Edward I as a sign of defeat of Scotland).

Many English kings and queens and other famous statesmen, writers, scientists are buried in Westminster Abbey. Among them there are two queens rivals Elizabeth I Tudor and Mary Stuart. Oliver Cromwell. Charles Dickens. Rudyard Kipling, Isaac Newton and Charles Darwin. It is famous for the **Poet's Corner**, where most popular writers (Kipling. Chaucer, Hardy, Dickens), poets and musicians are buried.



London Eye



The Merlin Entertainments London Eye is the largest observation wheel in the world. It stands at 135 meters tall and has 32 pods representing the 32 London boroughs.

The wheel was built in 1999 as part of London's millennium celebrations. It was designed by British architects David Marks and Julia Barfield. The wheel itself was constructed horizontally on the river and then, over several weeks, slowly raised to a vertical position. Each capsule is capable of carrying up to 25 passengers and it takes 30 minutes to complete one revolution. It has become the most popular tourist attraction in the UK, lifting over 4 million people into the London sky each year.

A flight on The London Eye offers incredible views across London and excellent photo opportunities. It has become one of London's iconic landmarks and a "must do" London attraction.

Museum



The British Museum is widely considered to be one of the world's greatest museums of human history and culture. Its permanent collection, numbering some eight million works, is amongst the finest, most comprehensive, and largest in existence and originates from all continents, illustrating and documenting the story of human culture from its beginnings to the present.

Museum



The British Museum was established in 1753 & first opened to the public on 15 January 1759 in Montagu House in Bloomsbury.

Today, the British Museum has grown to become one of the largest museums in the world, covering an area of over 92,000 m² (990,000 sq. ft). In addition to 21,600 m² (232,000 sq. ft) of on-site storage space, and 9,400 m² (101,000 sq. ft) of external storage space. Altogether the British Museum showcases on public display less than 1% of its entire collection, approximately 50,000 items. There are nearly one hundred galleries open to the public, representing 2 miles (3.2 km) of exhibition space, although the less popular ones have restricted opening times. However, the lack of a large temporary exhibition space has led to the £100 million World Conservation and Exhibition Centre to provide one and to concentrate all the Museum's conservation facilities into one Conservation Centre. This project was announced in July 2007, with the architects Rogers Stirk Harbour and Partners. It was granted planning permission in December 2009 and is expected for completion by 2013.

Blythe House in West Kensington is used by the Museum for off-site storage of small and medium-sized artefacts, and Franks House in East London is used for storage and work on the "Early Prehistory" - Paleolithic and Mesolithic - and some other collections.

There are many exiting sights in London which are worth seeing. According a well-known proverb, we understand, that seeing is believing.

London is one of the world's most enjoyable cities which stands on the beautiful river Thames. Visited by tourists in the millions, the city offers them an astonishing variety of scenes. Little damage occurred during World War I, but World War II brought tremendous destruction. Many buildings of great historic value were laid in ruins and today the face of London is changed. London has buildings that express all the different areas of its history.

- ✓ Many places in London are closely connected with the crown. They are: royal palaces, royal parks, roads and streets where beautiful ceremonies are hold. The most important building is Buckingham Palace, it is the official residence of Queen Elizabeth II. This Royal places use for royal processions.
- ✓ From the centre of Westminster Bridge, one can have a splendid view of the Houses of Parliament which spread magnificently on the north bank of Thames. The Houses of Parliament, called officially the Palace of Westminster, were formerly a palace for kings and queens. This structure is a remarkable example of Gothic architecture. The Clock Tower, which contains the hour-bell called "Big Ben", is known the world over.
- ✓ Westminster Abbey is a national shrine where kings and queens are crowned and famous people are buried. Founded by Edward the Confessor in 1050, the Abbey was a monastery for a long time. Near the West Door of the Abbey the Unknown Warrior lies in a simple grave commemorating the men who died in the First World War.
- ✓ St. Paul's Cathedral has always dominated the centre of London. Londoners have a particular affection for St. Paul's, which is the largest Protestant Church in England.
- ✓ Trafalgar Square is the natural center of London. The square was so named to commemorate Nelson's victory at the Battle of Trafalgar, and the monument in the centre, known as Nelson's Column, is surmounted with a Statue of Nelson 16 feet high. On the north side of the square are the National Gallery and the National Portrait Gallery.
- ✓ The Tower of London was one of the first and most impressive castles after the Norman invasion of England in 1066. Thousands years ago William the Conqueror decided to build a strong fortress to protect the City of London, which he had just conquered. The Tower of London has been used for different aims: as a royal palace, an observatory, an arsenal, a state prison. But now it is a museum.
- ✓ There are ten royal parks in and around London. For example: Hyde Park, Regents Park, London Zoo. Each park has its own character. In summer on open-air theatre which gives performances of Shakes pear's plays.

Thank for your
attention!