

# THE TOWER OF LONDON





# The guard of the Tower



The world famous Tower of London was a fortress, a palace, a prison and a royal zoo. Now it is a beautiful museum. Black ravens always live in the yard near the Tower. People keep them and look after them very well.







It is unclear why Yeoman are also known as Beefeaters. Some sources claim Yeoman are called Beefeaters because they received daily meat rations for their duties. Other sources claim that it is derived from the French 'buffetier' which meant "an attendant on the royal buffets" or "guard of the king's food". The French word was Anglicized into buffeters and changed into Beefeaters with time. Another explanation might be that they used to be well fed while most ordinary people were not.

## Beefeaters



## Yeoman Warders as Yeoman of the Guard



To complicate matters even further, Yeoman Warders are often referred to as Yeoman of the Guard. This is actually a corps of Royal Bodyguards. The confusion about their name isn't helped by the fact that their full and proper title is: 'Yeoman Warder of Her Majesty's Royal Palace and Fortress the Tower of London, and Members of the Sovereign's Body Guard of the Yeoman Guard Extraordinary'.





## Guard posted at Jewel house protecting the crown jewels





The keeping of ravens at the Tower is a serious business, since legend has it that, *'If the ravens leave the Tower, the kingdom will fall...'*



Master Raven Keeper at the [Tower of London](#), awakens the ravens from their slumbers and feeds them breakfast.





## The Coronation Spoon

The silver-gilt Coronation Spoon is over 800 years old – though it has been refurbished and re-gilded down the years. In 1649, the spoon was sold rather than being destroyed with the rest of the medieval crown jewels. This extraordinary survival is used at the Coronation for holy oil.



## The Sovereign's Scepter with Cross



The enormous 530.2 carat Cullinan I diamond, or Great Star of Africa, was added to the top of the Sovereign's Scepter with Cross (1661) in 1910. It remains the largest colourless cut diamond in the world.



## St Edward's Crown



St Edward's Crown (1661) is worn at the moment that the monarch is crowned in Westminster Abbey. Named after the medieval saint-king Edward the Confessor (d. 1066), this solid gold crown was used

most recently at the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. The Imperial State Crown (1937) is worn by the Queen at each State Opening of Parliament.