

London's symbols and places of interest



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Westminster Abbey



- Kings, Queens, statesmen, aristocrats, poets, priests, heroes and villains are all part of the church's fascinating history. Many of whom were buried at the Abbey including Charles Dickens, Geoffrey Chaucer, Dr. Samuel Johnson and Charles Darwin. Since the crowning of William the Conqueror in 1066, Westminster Abbey has been the nation's Coronation church. Many Kings and Queens, including the current reigning Queen Elizabeth II, have been crowned on King Edward's Chair. The Abbey has also seen many Royal Weddings and Funerals through the years, in 2011 it was the venue for the

Westminster Palace



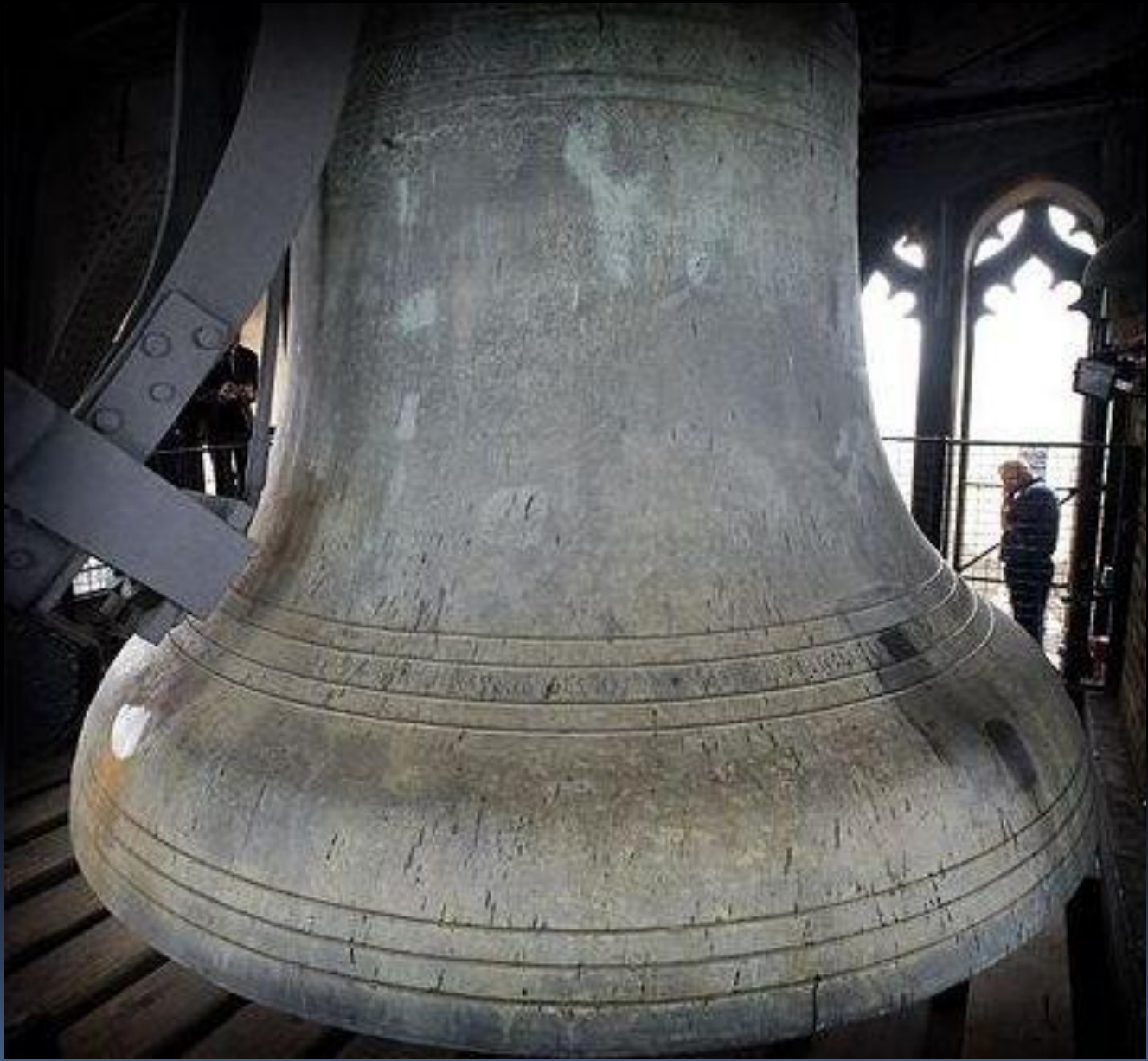
Or The Houses of Parliament



- **The present HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT were built after the old palace was burnt down in 1834. The building contains the House of Commons and the House of Lords, the two chambers where parliamentary business is debated. On the corner next to Westminster Bridge stands St. Stephens Tower, which houses the famous bell, Big Ben, which chimes the hours.**

Big Ben





- **The name Big Ben actually refers not to the clock-tower itself, but to the thirteen ton bell hung within. The bell was named after the first commissioner of works, Sir Benjamin Hall.**
- **During the second world war in 1941, an incendiary bomb destroyed the Commons chamber of the Houses of Parliament, but the clock tower remained intact and Big Ben continued to keep time and strike away the hours, its unique sound was broadcast to the nation and around the world, a welcome reassurance of hope to all who heard it.**

Buckingham Palace



- **BUCKINGHAM PALACE** is the Queen's official London residence. Built in 1702-5 for the Duke of Buckingham, it was sold in 1761 to George III. The Palace was little used by royalty until Victoria's accession to the throne in 1837. London's most popular spectacle is Changing the Guard. It takes place in the forecourt and lasts about 30 minutes.

Changing of the Guard



- Changing of the Guard is one of the oldest and most recognizable ceremonies connected with Buckingham Palace. The correct name of the ceremony known as Changing the Guard is actually Guard Mounting. In this process a New Guard exchanges duty with the Old Guard and both Guards are drawn from one of the regiments of Foot Guards.
- The standard bearskin hat of the British Foot Guards is 18 inches tall, weighs one and a half pounds and is made from the fur of the Canadian black bear.

The Tower of London

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- **THE TOWER OF LONDON** has been closely associated with many important events in English history. It has served as citadel, palace, prison, mint and menagerie. The White Tower was built in 1078 by William the Conqueror to protect the city. The Tower is famous for its illustrious prisoners, such as Sir Thomas More and Guy Fawks. Many notable people lost their heads on the executioner's block. The Tower is guarded by the Yeoman Warders popularly known as 'Beefeaters'.

The Tower Bridge



- Tower Bridge has stood over the River Thames in London since 1894 and is one of the finest, most recognisable bridges in the World. It is the London bridge you tend to see in movies and on advertising literature for London.
- Tower Bridge is the only Thames bridge which can be raised.
- The middle section can be raised to permit large vessels to pass the Tower Bridge. Massive engines raise the bridge sections, which weigh about 1000 tons each, in just over a minute. It used to be raised about 50 times a day, but nowadays it is only raised 4 to 5 times a week

St Paul's Cathedral



- **ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL** is a masterpiece of Sir Christopher Wren. It stands at the top of Ludgate Hill on a site where a Christian church has stood since the 7-th century. The building of the Cathedral started in 1675 and was not finished until 1709. The magnificent classical structure is crowned by a dome. Inside the Dome are scenes from the life of St. Paul,. Here too is the famous Whispering Gallery. There are many memorials in the Cathedral including those to the heroes such as Wellington and Nelson.

Trafalgar Square



- The name of the square commemorates the victory of Admiral Horatio Lord Nelson over the French fleet at the Battle of Trafalgar, a naval battle that took place on the 21st of October 1805 near Cape Trafalgar, just off the Spanish coast.
- Trafalgar Square was designed by Sir Charles Barry. It was constructed in the 1840s
- Norway always sends a huge Christmas tree that stands in the square, as a token of gratitude for Britain's help during the Second World War. The tree given is between 60-70 feet tall and is decorated with approximately 500 white lights.

Nelson's Column



- Dominating the square is the 56 m (171 feet) column, Nelson's Column, with its 5.5m (18 feet) statue of Nelson on top. It was erected in 1843.
- Nelson's column is guarded by four huge bronze lions sculpted by Sir Edwin Landseer in 1868.
- The four lions are rumoured to have been cast from melted down bronze cannons, reclaimed from old battleships (possibly from the French fleet).

British Museum



- The British Museum was founded in 1753. It contains one of the world's richest collections of antiquities. It also houses the main collection covering the history of plants, minerals and the animal world. There is also the Reading room of the British Library in the museum.

Hampton Court Palace



- For over 500 years, Hampton Court Palace has stood majestically on the banks of the River Thames. Set in 60 acres of beautiful gardens and home to some of Britain's most famous kings and queens, this magnificent palace was specifically built to entertain and impress royal visitors.
- Hampton Court Palace is a fine example of building built during the Tudor times. Built of red brick, it is nearly 700 ft long by 400 ft wide and contains over a thousand rooms.

Madame Tussaud's Museum



- **Madame Tussauds London is a major tourist attraction located in Central London, housed in the former London Planetarium. It is famous for recreating famous people, or celebrities, in wax. It is the original Madame Tussauds attraction, having been situated on Marylebone Road since 1884. It was set up by wax sculptor Marie Tussaud.**
- **One of the main attractions of her museum was the Chamber of Horrors. This part of the exhibition included victims of the French Revolution and newly created figures of murderers and other criminals.**

The Globe Theatre



This modern building is a faithful reconstruction of the Globe, first built in 1599, and perfectly evokes the atmosphere of Elizabethan London. Resident storytellers on the Shakespeare's Globe Theatre Tour and Exhibition introduce visitors to all aspects of the Globe, historical and contemporary, including Sam Wannamaker's epic struggle to recreate the theatre.

London Eye

JAZZ



JAZZ



- **The London Eye is a giant Ferris wheel.**
- **The London Eye stands on the South Bank of the River Thames in London, between Westminster and Hungerford Bridges. It is the world's highest observation wheel.**
- **The London Eye (previously known as the Millennium Wheel) stands 135 metres (443 feet) high.**
- **The London Eye can carry 800 passengers at a time on a thirty-minute ride. From its highest point of 450 feet, it promises views of up to 25 miles.**


The National Gallery



- On the north side of Trafalgar Square is the National Gallery.
- It was founded in 1824 when George IV persuaded the government to purchase 38 major paintings, including works by Raphael and Rembrandt.
- The National Gallery houses one of the biggest picture collections in the world.

The Tate



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- **Tate Modern is home to the Tate's collection of international modern art from 1900 to the present day, including major works by Matisse and Picasso as well as contemporary work, exhibitions and installations.**

Hyde Park



- Situated in the centre of London it's considered to be a royal park. Hyde Park covers over 1, 4 square kilometers or 350 acres. It has a finest landscape and is often used for political meetings or festive celebrations.
- The main attraction of the park is Serpentine Lake which is open for swimmers, and the gallery of the same name.
- Hyde Park is also famous for its Speaker's Corner. It's the place where different orators and preachers demonstrate their eloquence. That's why Speaker's Corner is considered to be the place where anyone can freely proclaim and state their ideas. Nowadays Hyde Park is also often used for different rock concerts and many famous bands have already played here, among them Queen, Rolling Stones and others.


Kensington Gardens



- Kensington Gardens is very popular for walking and jogging. Early morning you'll encounter plenty of people walking their dog. There are quite a few sights in the park, several of which are on many tourists' itinerary, including [Kensington Palace](#) Gardens is very popular for walking and jogging. Early morning you'll encounter plenty of people walking their dog. There are quite a few sights in the park, several of which are on many tourists' itinerary, including Kensington Palace, the [Albert Memorial](#) and the statue of Peter Pan.
- The most famous attraction in Kensington


St James's Park



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- St. James's Park is one of the most meticulously maintained parks in London. There are many flower beds, and paved paths meander through the park. In the summertime, during sunny spells, sunbathers relax in deck chairs on the groomed lawns.
 - Most visitors simply enjoy strolling through the park, watching the wildlife. The park provides habitats for a variety of fauna, in particular birds. The lake is home to fifteen different species of waterfowl, including pelicans, which were introduced to the park in the mid 1600s when the Russian ambassador gave a couple of these long-beaked birds as a present to Charles II.

Regent's Park



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- The park features a number of sports facilities such as tennis courts and the 'Hub', a sports community pavilion.
 - The centerpiece of the park is the London Zoo. Home to dozens of mammals, birds, invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians, and fish, visitors of all ages will love this excellent zoo, which is open year round.
 - There's also an open air theatre, which boasts productions from Shakespeare to Rodgers and Hammerstein.

Thank you for
your attention!

