

A scenic view of the London skyline featuring the Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, and the Westminster Bridge over the River Thames. The image is a composite with a blue sky and white clouds. The text "London the capital of the UK" is overlaid in a purple font.

# London the capital of the UK

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**London**- the city and the capital of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Administrative forms a region of England Greater London, divided into 32 self-governing region and the City.

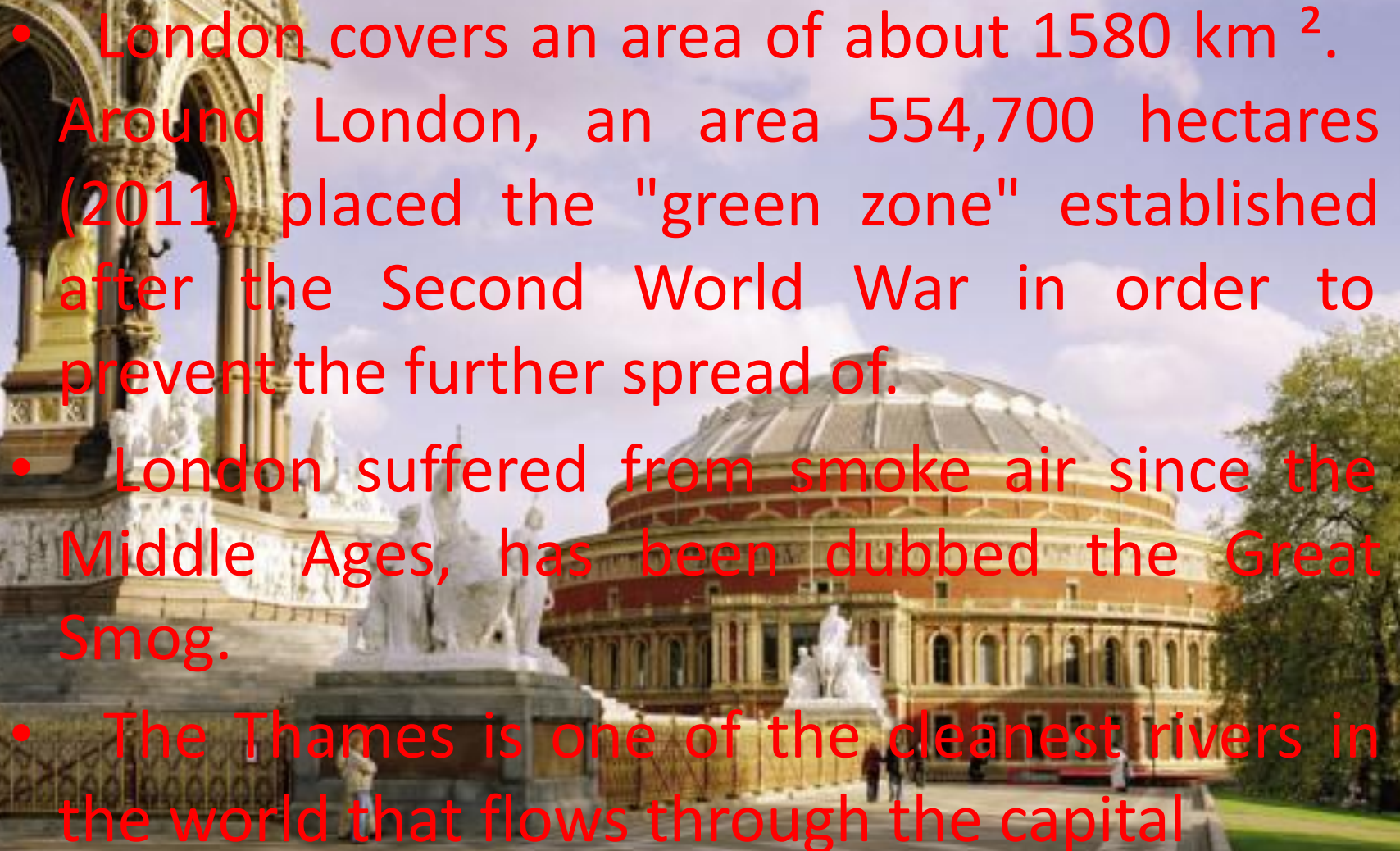


A night-time photograph of the Tower Bridge in London, illuminated with blue and white lights. The bridge's two towers and suspension cables are clearly visible against a dark sky. The bridge spans across the River Thames, with its reflection visible in the water below.

Population - 8.3 million people (2012), the second largest city in Europe.

The main political, economic and cultural center of the United Kingdom.

Founded about 43 years under the name Londinium by the Romans soon after their invasion of Britain. In I-III centuries - the capital of Roman Britain, with the XI-XII centuries - England, since 1707 - the UK, from the XVI to the XX century - the British Empire. From 1825 to 1925, was the largest city in the world.

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- London covers an area of about 1580 km<sup>2</sup>. Around London, an area 554,700 hectares (2011) placed the "green zone" established after the Second World War in order to prevent the further spread of.
  - London suffered from smoke air since the Middle Ages, has been dubbed the Great Smog.
  - The Thames is one of the cleanest rivers in the world that flows through the capital

An aerial photograph of London, England, featuring the Elizabeth Tower (Big Ben) and the Houses of Parliament in the foreground. The image shows a dense urban landscape with various buildings and a mix of architectural styles, including Gothic and modern structures. The lighting suggests a late afternoon or early morning setting, with warm tones and long shadows.

According to the 2011 census, living in London, 8,173,900 people (more than in Scotland and Northern Ireland combined). On average, during the day in London remains about 9.3 million people.

Roughly from 1825 to 1925, London was the most populated city in the world, after which it was ahead of New York.

In 1939, the population of London reached a historical high of 8.6 million inhabitants.

Now it is the second largest city in Europe.

A photograph of a Gothic cathedral, likely Westminster Abbey, with pink text overlaid on it. The image shows the intricate stone architecture of the building, including tall spires and large windows. A street lamp is visible in the foreground on the left. The sky is a clear, light blue.

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

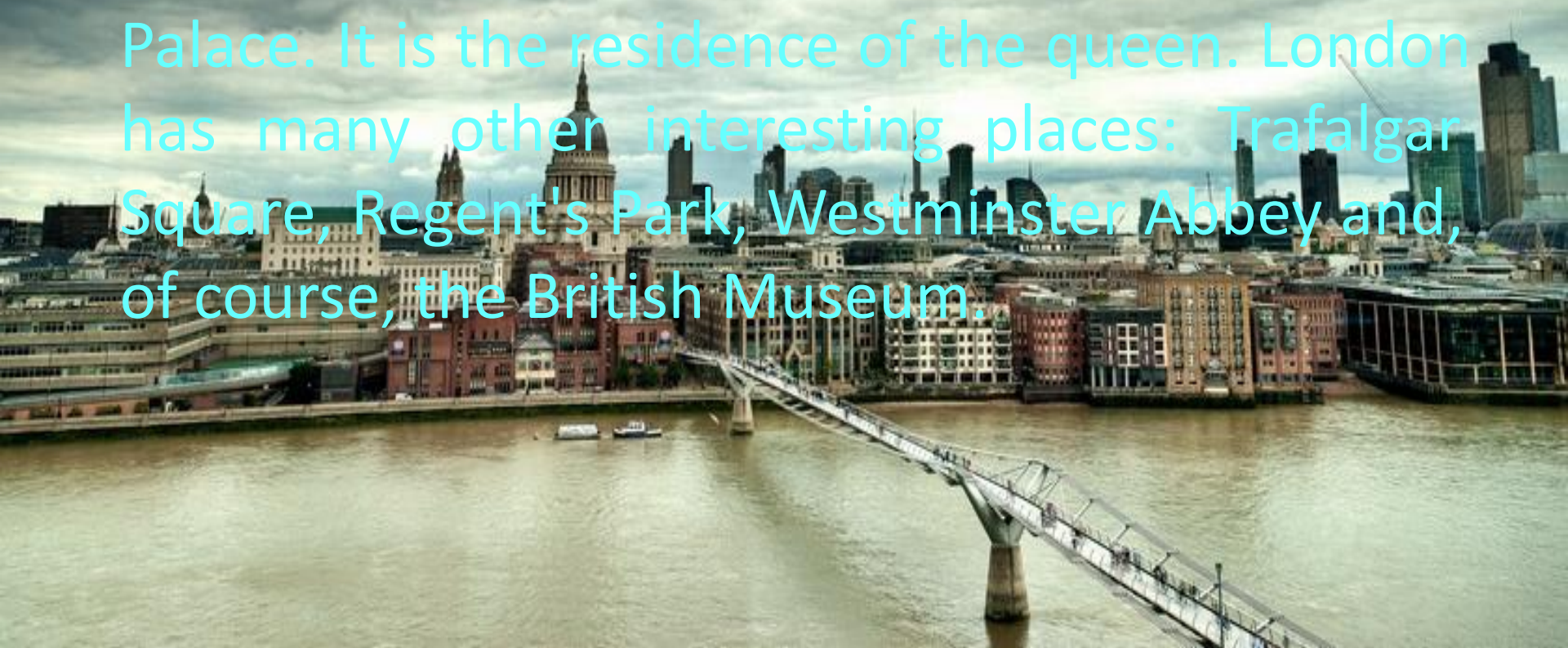
City - the oldest part of London, its financial and commercial center.

Westminster - it's the business part of the aristocratic London. It includes Buckingham Palace, where the Queen lives and where the building of the Parliament.

West End - the place of residence of rich people. This is the most beautiful part of London.

East End - an industrial area of London.

London has many attractions. One of them - the Houses of Parliament, where is the British government. Here you can see the famous Big Ben clock tower - symbol of London. Big Ben - is a real bell that beats every quarter of an hour. Another attraction of London - Buckingham Palace. It is the residence of the queen. London has many other interesting places: Trafalgar Square, Regent's Park, Westminster Abbey and, of course, the British Museum.





It is interesting!

The St. Paul's Cathedral can be seen trees with bright blue trunks. Australian artist Konstantin Dimopoulos decided to stress the importance of trees and the problem of deforestation, unfortunately, most people just do not pay attention to the trees as long as they are not cut down.



A scenic view of the Regent's Canal in London at dusk. The canal flows from the bottom left towards the center. On the right, a brick building with a black iron fence runs along the canal. In the background, a bridge with ornate ironwork spans the canal. The sky is a deep blue, and the water reflects the lights from the buildings and bridge.

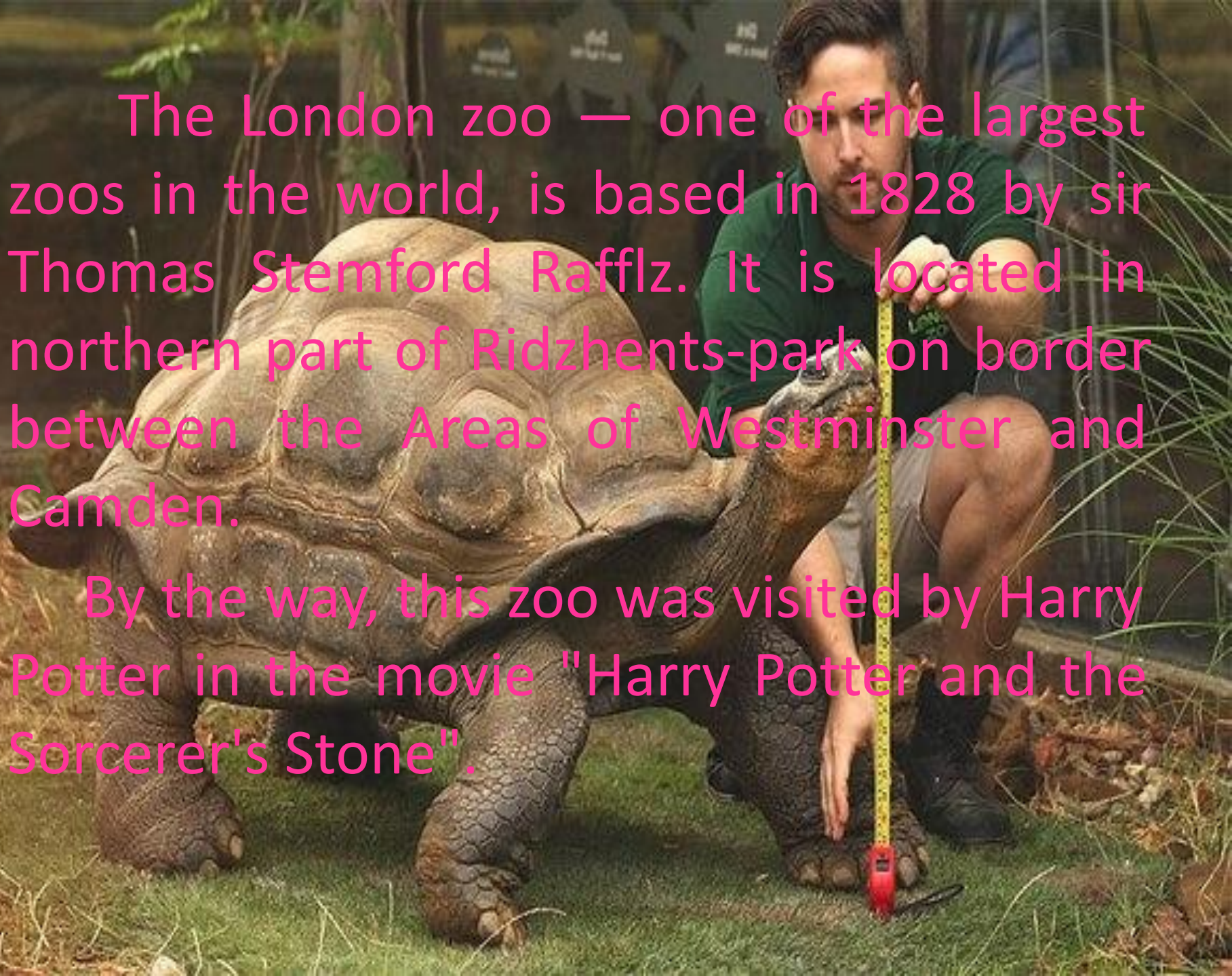
"Little Venice" is not far from Paddington Station, one need only take a walk along the Regent's Canal.



Trafalgar Square in central London is rightly attracts thousands of tourists. On the ground in front of the National Gallery. Couple resourceful "artists" decided to play on the patriotism of foreign tourists. They painted on the pavement flags of many nations. Someone threw the flag of his country's first coin, most likely by the artists themselves, but gradually on the flags of the tourists begin to "vote" for their country a coin.

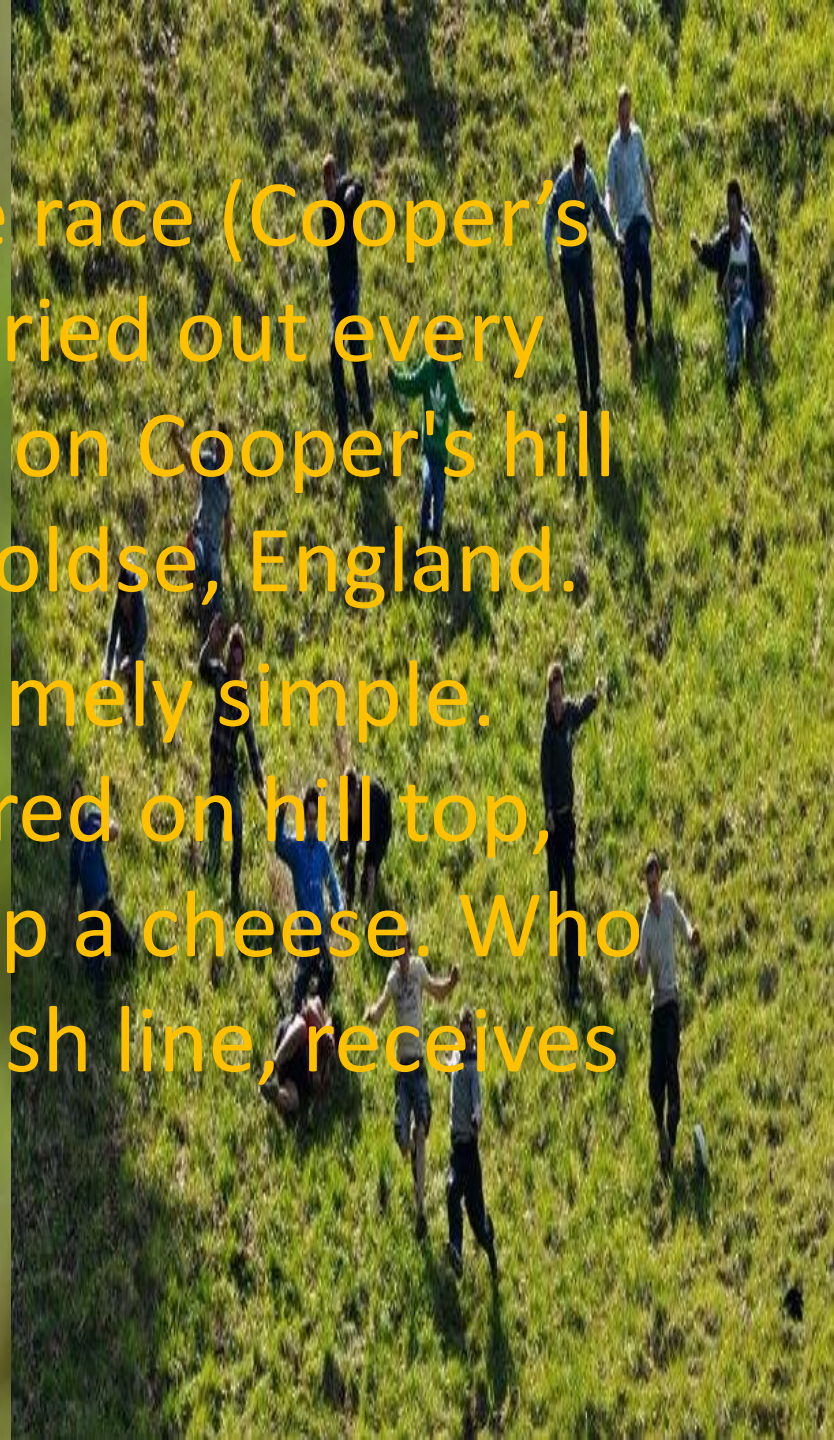
The London zoo — one of the largest zoos in the world, is based in 1828 by sir Thomas Stamford Raffles. It is located in northern part of Richmond-park on border between the Areas of Westminster and Camden.

By the way, this zoo was visited by Harry Potter in the movie "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone".



Kuperskhildsky cheese race (Cooper's Hill Cheese-Rolling) is carried out every year last Monday of May on Cooper's hill near Gloucester to Kotsuoldse, England.

Rules of race are extremely simple. When participants gathered on hill top, from it on a signal start up a cheese. Who the first will cross the finish line, receives cheese as a prize.



A photograph of the Prime Meridian in Greenwich, London. The image shows a large, ornate sundial in the background, with a metal track running along the ground in the foreground. The track is flanked by a brick wall on the right and a fence on the left. The sky is blue with some clouds. The text is overlaid on the image in a yellow font.


The huge royal park (the former hunting grounds of monarchs) in the southeast of London is well-known for the observatory of sir Christopher Rehn: through the territory of its yard passes that Zero meridian that divides our planet into two hemispheres — the West and the East and is a reference point of all time zones.

The traffic light tree on crossing of streets Marsh Uoll and Uestferri Road was "planted" in 1999 by Pierre Vivan. The tree consisted of 75 traffic lights. In 2011 the intersection reconstructed and a tree cleaned.



On April 13 in London passed "Tweed Cross-country" (Tweed Run).

Indispensable condition for participants - the tweed suit being traditional for British cyclists. Vintage style of action reproduces the atmosphere of last time.

A large group of people is participating in a pillow fight in Trafalgar Square, London. The scene is filled with people holding pillows and throwing feathers. The air is thick with white feathers, creating a chaotic and playful atmosphere. In the background, the iconic architecture of Trafalgar Square, including the Nelson's Column and the fountains, is visible under a clear blue sky. The overall mood is festive and energetic.

Pillow Fight Day is a global flashmob which arrange worldwide on April 6. Yesterday hundreds people gathered on the Trafalgar Square in London to beat each other pillows and to laugh with all the heart.





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Certainly, one of important components of London - ridiculous, cunning and eternally hungry proteins.



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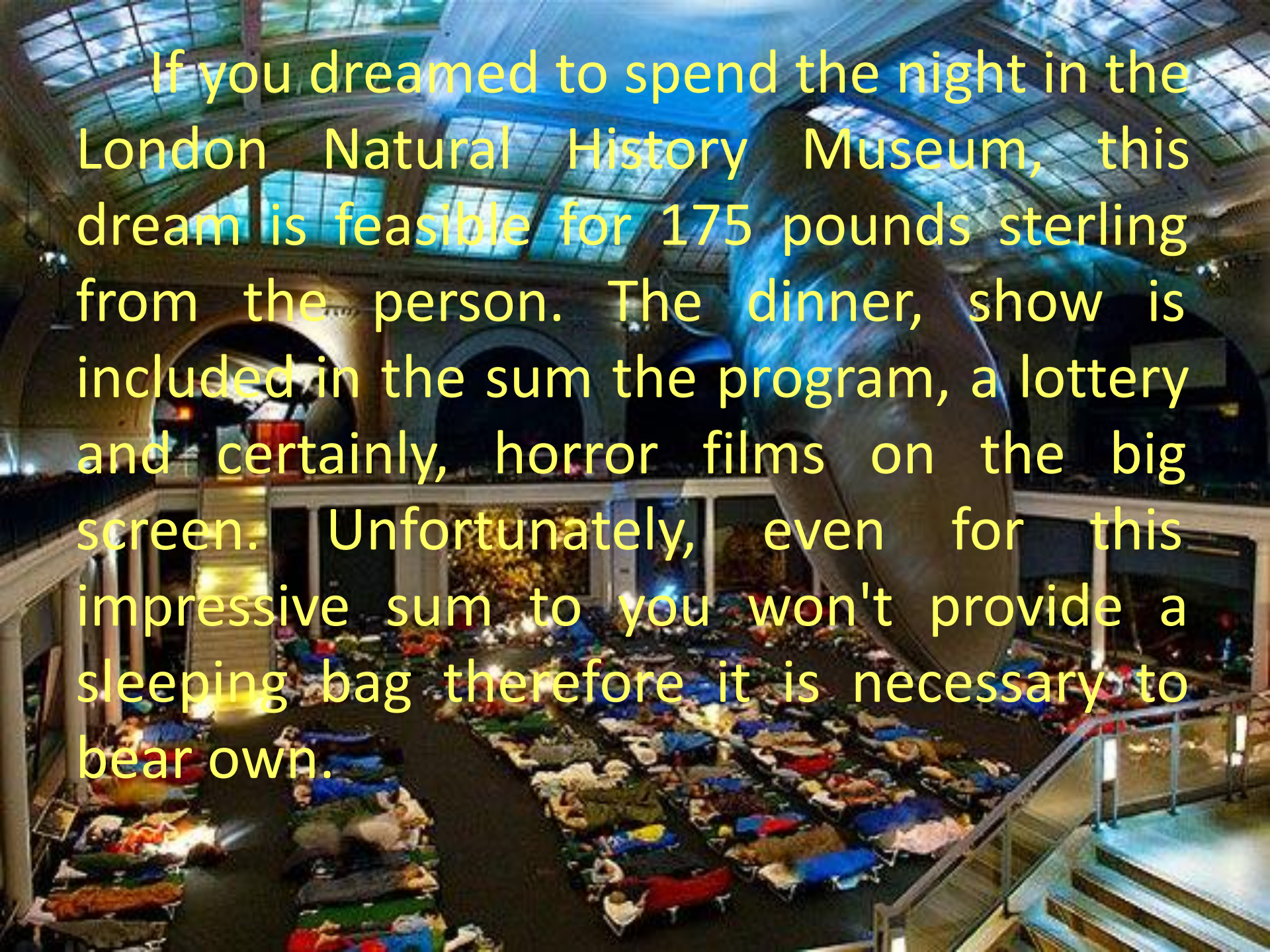


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If you dreamed to spend the night in the London Natural History Museum, this dream is feasible for 175 pounds sterling from the person. The dinner, show is included in the sum the program, a lottery and certainly, horror films on the big screen. Unfortunately, even for this impressive sum to you won't provide a sleeping bag therefore it is necessary to bear own.



In 1664 the Russian Ambassador brought to London pack of pelicans - a gift to King Charles II. Since then in royal park St. James's, near the Buckingham palace, live these big beautiful birds, entertaining tourists and locals. Among them one pelican to whom named Willie especially caused a stir. It is well-known for that with pleasure poses for photographers and likes to sit on a shop with the friends.



# 10 facts about Tower Bridge:

- On construction of the bridge eight years were required, in it participated five chief contractors and 432 workers-builders.
- To build a framework of towers and passes, 11 000 tons of steel were required.
- Once in 1952 the bridge unexpectedly started drawing, and the London bus which was on the bridge, was compelled to make "jump" from one flight on another.
- In 1977, in honor of Silver anniversary of reign of the queen, Tower Bridge was recoloured in red, white and blue colors (before it was chocolate color).
- In 1982, for the first time since 1910, transitions of Tower Bridge were glazed and open for general public, together with constantly operating Museum of Tower Bridge (Tower Bridge Exhibition), located in its towers
- Since 1994 Tower Bridge is leased for carrying out solemn evenings and receptions.
- In May, 1997 "unexpectedly" opened Tower Bridge divided a motorcade of the American President Bill Clinton.
- In 2012 the bridge celebrated the 30 anniversary of the museum.
- Total length of Tower Bridge makes 244 meters, and length of the central flight between towers reaches 61 meters.
- Michael Williams spent 10 years and 1,6 million matches for creation of the copy of Tower Bridge.

"It indeed astounding city! The most surprising that with each its new visit, paints don't grow dull, and admiration of this city doesn't weaken. But little by little impressions become more counterbalanced, and perception of details — pragmatic. Already you cease to go on it, having slightly opened a mouth. You start noticing, many things, whether it be paving slabs or the organization of public transport" are how well thought over and executed here. © Anatoly Strunin

