

LONDON





London is the capital Great Britain its political economic and commercial centre. It is one of the largest cities in the world (together with Tokyo and New York) and the largest city in Europe. Its population is about 8 million.

London is situated on the river Thames. The city is very old. It has more than a 20centry –old history.

It is the largest four-faced chiming clock and the third-tallest free-standing clock tower in the world. It celebrated its 150th anniversary in May 2009, during which celebratory events took place. The clock was finished being built on April 10, 1858.





Westminster is the aristocratic official part of London. It includes Buckingham Palace where the Queen lives and the House of Parliament the seat of British Parliament. The Clock Tower of the Houses of Parliament is famous for its big hour bell known as “Big Ben”.





The clock's movement is famous for its reliability. The designers were the lawyer and amateur horologist Edmund Beckett Denison, and George Airy, the Astronomer Royal. Construction was entrusted to clockmaker Edward John Dent; after his death in 1853 his stepson Frederick Dent completed the work, in 1854.[12] As the Tower was not complete until 1859, Denison had time to experiment: Instead of using the deadbeat escapement and remontoire as originally designed, Denison invented the double three-legged gravity escapement. This escapement provides the best separation between pendulum and clock mechanism. The pendulum is installed within an enclosed windproof box sunk beneath the clockroom. It is 3.9m long, weighs 300 kg and beats every 2 seconds. The clockwork mechanism in a room below weighs 5 tons. On top of the pendulum is a small stack of old penny coins; these are to adjust the time of the clock. Adding a coin has the effect of minutely lifting the position of the pendulum's centre of mass, reducing the effective length of the pendulum rod and hence increasing the rate at which the pendulum swings. Adding or removing a penny will change the clock's speed by 0.4 seconds per day.[6]

On 10 May 1941, a German bombing raid damaged two of the clock's dials and sections of the tower's stepped roof and destroyed the House of Commons chamber. Architect Sir Giles Gilbert Scott designed a new five-floor block. Two floors are occupied by the current chamber which was used for the first time on 26 October 1950. Despite the heavy bombing the clock ran accurately and chimed throughout the Blitz.





CLOCK TOWER

The clock dials are big enough that the Clock Tower was once the largest four-faced clock in the world.

The dial of the Great Clock of Westminster. The hour hand is 2.7 metres long and the minute hand is 4.3 metres (14 ft) long, and the time is 6:20(18:20)





There are also some visible remains of the very early origins of the City of London. The longest surviving remnant of this era is the London Wall, originally built in the 2nd century, but later expanded at around 200 AD. The 4.5 km long (almost 3 miles) and up to 4 meters high (14ft) wall ran in a more or less semi circular shape from the site of the current Blackfriars station to the site of the Tower of London at Tower Hill. It was still mostly intact until the 17th century, after which it was gradually demolished as the city expanded.

Some sections of the wall can be seen along the route, including at Tower Hill - a statue of Trajan marks the site - and at the Museum of London, which is located at the site of a former bastion on the route of the Roman wall.

THE END

