LONDON GUIDE

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**Essential Information**

The largest city in Western Europe and the EU, London is a diverse, vibrant, multicultural hub of frenetic energy; an exciting city by all accounts, that boasts some of the world’s best sights and attractions.

Situated on the River Thames, the city is divided into 32 boroughs plus the City of London, and presents an eclectic mix of the modern and the historical. Steeped in culture, music, fashion, finance and exhilarating history, London is one of the world’s global cities and even a short trip will reveal why.

You probably won’t be able to avoid the infamous gloomy and rainy weather, but don’t worry – there are countless indoor attractions. It would be easy to spend days in British Museum, Natural History Museum or National Gallery. And the legendary skyline with Westminster Abbey, London Eye and The Shard looks so good in grey.

Being so big, London is a city of contradictions: old and new, wealth and poverty, classical and alternative culture intertwined with rich ethical mixture – there’s always something new and unexpected no matter where you go! Despite its overwhelming size, London is easily walkable and best explored on foot.

**Time Zone**

GMT/UTC +00:00 hour, observes DST.

**Contacts**

Tourist Contacts

- Tourist office: +44 870 566 366

**Currency**

Pound. £1 = 100 pence. Notes come in denominations of £5, £10, £20 and £50. Coins come in denominations of 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p, £1 and £2.

The pound is generally a stable currency. There are numerous bureaux de change in London, and can usually be found inside banks, travel agents and post offices as well as airports and train stations. You may be charged commission and it may be worth shopping around for a good deal. Alternatively, you can always use the ATMs (cash machines) to withdraw money in the local currency.

As far as credit cards go, Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted, American Express not so much. Most of the cash machines do accept even Amex and Diners Club, though.

**Tax Refunds**

It is possible for international visitors to get VAT refunds on purchases with the Retail Export Scheme, also called Tax-Free Shopping. VAT is 20% and is levied on most goods and services, except basic food, books and kid’s clothing.

To be eligible, you must have spent fewer than 365 days in the two years prior to the purchase living in the UK and you must be leaving the EU (for at least 12 months) within 3 months of the purchase.

Not all shops participate in Tax-free shopping, and different shops have different minimum conditions (usually around £75 in any one shop).

You need to ask for a VAT407 form at the time of purchase, which must then be presented with the goods and receipts to customs when you depart. They certify the form and it should then be either returned to the shop for a refund (minus fees) which can take between 8-10 weeks, sent to a commercial refund company, or handed in at a refund booth for immediate payment, as agreed with the retailer at the time of purchase.

**Prices**

Prices in London are usually above the UK standard – it is a world-class destination after all. But if you know how, you can enjoy London on a budget. Try the Visit London site for some great budget ideas (www.visitlondon.com)

Having said that, the majority of museums and galleries are free to enter (with just special exhibitions requiring admission) and students with ISIC are eligible for various discounts in transport and culture. Entrance to some attractions can range from £5 up to £20, but you might consider purchasing the London Pass. Holders benefit from free entry to over 55 attractions and some queue-skipping privileges. It can be purchased for 1, 2, 3 or 6 days and the price varies from £80 to £480.

- Traditional English breakfast including a cup of coffee or tea – £5
- Meal and soft drink in an inexpensive restaurant – under £15
- Meal and soft drink in a mid-range restaurant – £25
- Bottle of water at supermarket – £0.70
- Lunch snack/sandwich – £2 – £4
- Domestic beer (pint, draught) – £3-4
- Souvenir t-shirt – £15 – £20
- Gasoline (1 liter) – £142.8
- Hostel (average price/night) – £20 for dorm bed

**Food**

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**Transportation**

- GMT/UTC +00:00 hour, observes DST.
- International emergency number: 112
- Emergency services (police, fire, and ambulance): 999
- On-call medical service: +44 870 6000870

**Emergency Contacts**

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**MONEY**

- **4* hotel (average price/night)** – £100-150
- **Car-hire (medium-sized car/day)** – £40-100

**Tipping**

Tipping in London is appreciated and is based on the quality of the service you receive. It is customary in restaurants, where you might leave 10-15% of the bill; however, many establishments add a service charge automatically, especially for large groups, so always check to avoid tipping twice. It isn’t common to tip for fast food, self-service or takeaway food. Nor is it common in pubs, but you may like to offer to ‘buy a drink for the bartender’, who will then keep it to enjoy when their shift is over, or they may keep the price of one drink as a tip.

London hotels usually include a service charge of 10-12%. Room cleaners may be left some change on your departure, and tips for other staff, such as concierges, door staff and (most commonly) porters, are discretionary.

It is considered polite to tip licensed minicabs or black cabs 10-15% of the taxi fare, but it is easier to just round up the fare to the nearest £1, or by offering that the driver ‘keep the change’.

**Electricity**

UK plugs have three square pins. The standard electricity supply in Britain is 230V but can be slightly higher. For compatible devices, you will probably need to use an adapter, which are easily found at airports or high street shops like Argos. For devices working on a lower voltage, however, you will need a converter, look for a dual-voltage (110V-240V). An idiosyncrasy of UK sockets, is that they come with a switch. So check that you have switched on any sockets you are using.

**Languages**

Unsurprisingly, the main spoken language is English; however, London is the most linguistically diverse city in the world, with over 250 languages spoken! So whereas you may find that shop-keepers, taxi drivers and bus drivers speak only English, the tourist industry is well-equipped to welcome you in many languages. Information centers will have teams speaking at least 10 languages and there are tour guides available in over 40!

**Mobile Phones**

The whole country is covered by the GSM mobile network which means that phones from the U.S. may not work – check with your operator in advance. If you plan to stay in London for some time, consider buying a pay-as-you-go SIM card, available from any mobile telephone shop. This way you will avoid roaming charges, being charged for calls and text messages at the local rate. The UK dialing code is +44 (which replaces the 0) and 20 is the area code for London.

**Internet**

London is very well connected and has a huge range of Internet cafes, providing internet access (plus photocopy and fax facilities at some places) for about £1 per hour. Or if you have your own device, you can access Wi-Fi almost anywhere at the plethora of coffee shops, restaurants and even some tube stations. You may have to ask for the venue’s password for access though.

The number of hotspots in London is growing, including O2 hotspots around Oxford Street, Regent Street, and many others. O2’s website (o2wifi.co.uk) offers a searchable list of over 360 hotspots available in and around the London area lists all the local cafes, pubs, restaurant and more at which you can connect.

**Internet Resources**

- National Tourism Agency (http://www.visitbritain.com)
- Official London City Guide (http://www.visitlondon.com/)
- Transport for London (http://www.tfl.gov.uk/)

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**COMMUNICATION**

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Public holidays are known as ‘bank holidays’ in the UK and they mark religious, historical and special events. Shops, attractions and some businesses stay open for public holidays, but do check before your visit as those that open will probably only do so for shorter hours. Almost all shops and institutions are closed for Christmas Day and Easter Sunday.

Public holidays that apply to London are:
- January 1 – New Year’s Day
- Good Friday
- Easter Monday
- Early May Bank Holiday
- start of June – Spring Bank Holiday
- end of August – Summer Bank Holiday
- December 25 – Christmas Day
- December 26 – Boxing Day

Opening Hours

Shops and department stores are usually open between 9 a.m. and 5/6 p.m. Monday to Saturday, with shorter opening times on Sunday, usually 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. However shopping centers like Westfield are open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday to Saturday and 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays. Many large supermarkets are open 24 hours from Sunday midnight to Saturday midnight and then again during the day on Sunday.

Museum and attraction opening times are typically 10 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. every day, with some opening earlier and others closing later. Many museums and exhibition centers offer weekly or special late night openings too. Check the relevant website for more details.

Pubs are generally open from 11 a.m. until 11 p.m., but may stay open much later if they have applied for a 24-hour drinking license. There are clubs, too, which open until about 3 a.m.

Public Transportation

An excellent resource for helping you find your way in London is the Transport for London website (www.tfl.gov.uk) with its fantastic Journey Planner tool.

The London Underground, affectionately called the Tube, is the most convenient way to get around the city. Greater London is served by 12 tube lines which generally run between 5 a.m. and midnight Monday to Saturday, with reduced hours on Sunday. The system is divided into 9 zones, with zones 1 and 2 covering central London. There are free Underground maps at stations and, though the iconic map may seem complicated, it is really quite easy to follow. Note whether you want to be heading Eastbound, Westbound, Northbound or Southbound and check that the direction of trains correlate before boarding. Note that the underground map does not represent actual distances. Distances between stops can range considerably.

When traveling on escalators, remember to stand on the right and walk on the left - people in a hurry will thank you for keeping to this - Londoners all do. Rush hours can be very busy and crowded. The renowned Please Mind the Gap announcement is read for a reason, there can be large gaps between the train and the platform, so be careful.

You can buy single tickets or Travelcards for one day, one week, a month or a year. A day Travelcard has 2 prices; zones 1 and 2 off-peak (valid from 9.30 a.m. Monday to Friday and all day [12.01 a.m. to 4.30 a.m. the following day] at weekends and public holidays) is £7 and peak (valid for travel until 4.30 a.m. the following morning) is £8.40. Do check whether you are purchasing the ticket for the zone you wish to travel to. It is usually much easier and cheaper to buy an Oyster card (for a refundable £5 deposit) on which you store credit. It can be used on most London transport and makes using public transport in London hassle-free, as all you need to do is touch-in and touch-out every station. The system aims to charge you the lowest available fare for your journey and a price cap is set at the price of a Day Travelcard, so you never lose out.

For more information on the Oyster card, check the visitlondon website (www.visitlondon.com) International visitors can buy standard pay-as-you-go Oyster cards on arrival (at Gatwick Airport and Victoria Station and many others) or they can buy them through the Visit Britain website (www.visitbritainshop.com)

Buses – a quick and convenient way to travel around the city, London’s infamous red double-decker buses (and their more modern counterparts) increasingly offer frequent services and reasonable accessibility. There is a flat fare throughout the bus network of £2.30 (if you are paying with cash) or £1.35 (if paying using your pre-pay Oyster card, with which you just touch-in upon boarding). Travelcards are also valid on buses too, and validity for travel is required ahead of your journey.

Night buses cover the period between the tube closing and the normal buses starting, however many London bus routes run for 24 hours. If you need a night bus but are not familiar with the
routes, just head to Trafalgar Square which is the hub for night buses.

Docklands Light Railway is the driverless rail-way serving as part of the East and South East London. It links with the tube at Bank and Tower Gateway (Tower Hill) stations amongst others. It also serves Greenwich and London City Airport.

Tramlink South London is London’s tram net-work. Introduced in 2000, trams link Wimbledon, Beckenham, New Addington and Croydon. Access is step-free and travel is free for all wheelchair users. It runs about every 10 minutes during the day from Monday to Saturday and is considered part of the bus network, with tickets costing the same as for buses.

If you’re looking for a bit more adventure, why not try out the London River Bus services on the Thames, taking in the amazing views along the way. Or you could always glide above the River Thames in the Emirates Air Line cable cars. A six minute trip will get you from Greenwich Peninsula to the Royal Docks and you can use your Oyster Card to pay. Or if you want to see London up close and personal, join the London Cycle Hire Scheme. Your first half an hour is free and 8,000 bikes are available at 570 London locations, see the website (www.visitlondon.com)

Taxis

Black cabs can be hailed in the street or found at designated ranks at places like rail, tube and bus stations. They can also be booked by telephone. When the yellow TAXI sign is lit, the car is available. A minimum of £2.40 is charged and the fare is then metered. A typical fare for 1 mile is £5.60 – £8.80 and a ride from Central London to Heathrow costs £45 – £83. There may be additional charges for paying by card, or traveling on Christmas Day or New Year’s Eve. Most Black cabs accept payment by card, but do check before your journey.

Minicabs can be cheaper but can only be booked by phone or at the minicab office. As fares are not metered, make sure you agree on a fare before departing. Make sure you only use licensed cars, which will all have the distinctive Transport for London license disk in the front and rear wind-screen. Minicabs looking for business on the street are illegal and possibly unsafe. Also, before getting in the booked minicab, always make sure that the driver can confirm your name and destination, as given when booking.

Phone numbers:
- 020 7871 3114 Crown Executive Car Service
- 020 7240 1040 Covent Garden Cars
- 020 7637 5999 E Airport Transfers
- 020 7127 4794 Oxford Street Cars

Regional Transportation

The UK has an extensive rail network. National Rail is served by several major companies connecting London to the rest of the Britain and by small companies operating regionally. Information on routes, times and fares can be found on http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/. Despite the different operators, tickets are valid throughout the network and can be purchased at any UK train station or travel point. If you plan on traveling by train a lot, you might consider purchasing a Britrail pass.

Traveling by coach is a very affordable option. It is advised to buy tickets online and well in advance for more favorable fares.

There are several major private companies:
There is so much choice in London; you won’t want to limit yourself to the British specialties. Remember, smoking is banned in all UK pubs and restaurants.

**Specialties**
- Traditional British breakfast – fried bacon, sausages, eggs, beans in tomato sauce, toast.
- Fish and chips – deep-fried battered fish with fries.
- Pie and mash – minced beef and cold water pastry pie served with mashed potatoes and parsley sauce.
- Jellied eels – chopped eels in a spiced jelly.
- Tripe and onions.
- Boiled beef and carrots with pease porridge.
- Baked potatoes – usually filled with beans in tomato sauce, or with tuna salad or cheddar.

While in the UK, you absolutely need to try the renowned tea with milk. As for alcoholic drinks, try the juicy apple cider and the more alcoholic ale. The British beer is generally known as the ‘bitter’.

**Legal Age**
The legal age for purchasing and drinking alcohol in the UK is 18. However, from the age of 16, alcohol can be consumed in licensed restaurants when purchased with a meal by an adult.

Overall, the London nightlife scene is vibrant and full of unexpected finds. Note that there is usually no waiter service in pubs and bars. You are expected to pay for drinks at the bar when ordering.

London’s calendar is never quiet, there is always something amazing happening somewhere, check what is going on during your visit (www.visitlondon.com)

**January**
- New Year’s Day Parade (http://www.londonparade.co.uk/)
- London Boat Show (http://www.londonboatshow.com/)

**February**
- Chinese New Year (http://www.chinatownlondon.org/)

**March**
- Head of the River Race (http://www.horr.co.uk/)

**April**
- London Marathon (http://www.virginlondonmarathon.com/)

**May**
- Chelsea Flower Show (http://www.rhs.org.uk/)

**June**
- Trooping the Colour – impressive battlefield ceremony performed by the British and Commonwealth armies
- City of London Festival (http://www.colf.org/)
- Pride London (http://www.pridelondon.org/)
- World Naked Bike Ride (http://www.worldnakedbikeride.org/)

**July**
- Hampton Court Palace Flower Show – the world’s largest flower show (http://www.rhs.org.uk)

**August**
- The Proms (http://www.bbc.co.uk/proms)
- Notting Hill Carnival (http://www.notting-hill.org/carnival.html)

**September**
- Open House Weekend (http://www.openhouselondon.org.uk/)

**October**
- London Film Festival (http://www.bfi.org.uk/)

- Lord Mayor’s Show (http://www.lordmayorsshow.org/)
- Remembrance Day London Parade (http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/)
- Lord Mayor’s Show (http://www.lordmayorsshow.org/)
- Remembrance Day London Parade (http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/)
- tree lighting ceremony at Trafalgar’s Square (http://www.london.gov.uk/priorities/art-culture/trafalgar-square/events/christmas-trafalgar-square)
- Great Christmas Pudding Race (http://www.xmaspuddingrace.org.uk/)
- New Year’s Eve fireworks by the London Eye
Free Things To Do

There are so many wonderful things to do for free in London!

The major museums are all free, including the British Museum, the National Gallery, Tate Britain, Tate Modern, the National Portrait Gallery, the Natural History Museum, the Science Museum, the Victoria and Albert Museum, and many more!

All the parks are free too, such as Greenwich Park, Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, Regent’s Park and Richmond Park – real beauty in the heart and surroundings of London.

Do not miss the Changing of the Guard ceremony – takes place every day at 11.30 a.m. in front of the Buckingham Palace.

Trafalgar Square, Leicester Square and Covent Garden are all free to roam around and often have lots for tourists to enjoy.

A stroll down the South Bank from Westminster Bridge to London Bridge offers a fantastic view of so many wonderful London landmarks, including the London Eye, Tate Modern, the Houses of Parliament, St Paul’s Cathedral, Millennium Bridge, Shakespeare’s Globe and so many more; you just won’t believe your eyes.

Also popular with Londoners are the bustling markets, such as Spitalfields, Camden Market, Portobello Road, Borough Market and others, offering everything from flowers, to food, to clothes, to antiques.

Shopping

Souvenir shops are packed with great ideas, like model red double-decker buses, post pillar boxes and telephone boxes.

Other ideas include:

- Tea packed in beautiful cans
- Biscuits in decorated tins
- The rather pricey but popular London Gin
- Paddington bear toys
- Vintage travel posters sold at the London Transport museum
- Souvenirs from Harrods

Do remember to stand on the right and walk on the left of escalators.

DO use an Oyster card for public transport as it saves a lot of money.

DO be polite, saying ‘Please’ and ‘Thank you’. It is considered rude if you don’t.

DO have an afternoon tea somewhere special, a unique experience.

DO try to experience one of London’s great parks.

DO enjoy a visit to a world-renowned museum or gallery.

DO take advantage of the plethora of cuisines available in London.

DO NOT litter – fines for throwing rubbish or cigarette butts on the street are high.

DO NOT greet people with a kiss on the cheeks – British people prefer a handshake if not with close friends or relatives.

DO NOT give money to beggars. It won’t help them get off the street.

DO NOT skip the queue, it is considered very impolite.

Safety

The United Kingdom is a safe place to visit and London is a safe city. Violent crime is not prevalent as there are few guns on the street. As with any city, there are the risks of pickpockets, thieves or bag-snatchers. Be wary of card traps attached to ATMs (better to use those inside the bank) and don’t allow yourself to become distracted while using the machine. It is also advised not to flash large amounts of money or expensive items like mobile phones.

The London Underground is one of the safest in the world and is staffed at all times, however is not without crime. Frequent announcements urge travelers to report any unattended baggage

- this is taken very seriously in case of terrorist attack, so do report anything. You will be thanked and not reprimanded if it turns out to be nothing. Make sure you keep all your belongings with you at all times, too, so as not to cause an alert yourself!

Always use licensed taxis or the infamous black cabs and never except rides from just anyone claiming to be a taxi driver.

Though not a dangerous city, there have been reports of knifings, assaults, rapes and theft. You may encounter alcohol-induced anti-social behavior around pubs and clubs at night.

It is definitely best not to travel alone at night and to keep to well-lit roads. Don’t allow your personal music system to reduce awareness of your surroundings and don’t accept drinks from strangers.

There are the usual tourist-aimed scams, like being invited to a private club where you end up paying a hefty ‘bill’. Beware of fake ticket sellers and people who seem to be trying to distract you. Most problems can be avoided by applying general traveler common sense.

If you encounter any problems, call the emergency number, 999, or your local police with non-emergencies.
Must See Things in London A-Z

A  Kensington Palace
B  Natural History Museum
C  Hyde Park
D  Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain
E  Marble Arch
F  Harrods
G  Battersea Park
H  Madame Tussauds Wax Museum
I  Oxford Street
J  Buckingham Palace
K  St. James’s Palace
L  Piccadilly Circus
M  British Museum
N  National Gallery
O  10 Downing Street
P  Westminster Abbey
Q  Covent Garden
R  Trafalgar Square
S  Big Ben
T  London Eye
U  Sea Life London Aquarium
V  Tate Modern
W  Globe Theatre
X  St. Paul’s Cathedral
Y  Tower of London
Z  Tower Bridge
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**Kensington Palace**

A lavish royal residence inhabited by princes and princesses and surrounded by beautiful gardens. Can be visited by public, don’t miss out!

Kensington Gardens, London W8 4PX, UK

GPS: N51.50520, W0.18746

Phone: +44 (0)20 3166 6000

Opening hours:
Mar. 1, 2013 – Oct. 31, 2013: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Admission:
- Adults: £15 (£14 online)
- Children (under 16): free
- Concessions (full-time students, over 60 yrs with ID): £12.40

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**Natural History Museum London**

Its collection is huge and cannot possibly be fully explored in one day. Do not miss out the displays on dinosaurs, they’re very popular.

Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, UK

GPS: N51.49560, W0.17642

Phone: +44 (0)20 7942 5000

Opening hours:
Mon – Sun: 10 a.m. – 5:50 p.m.

Admission: Entry to the museum is free.

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**Hyde Park**

London's largest park is where the city's inhabitants come to relax and enjoy the sunny days. Wonderful place for a walk.

GPS: N51.50690, W0.16995

Phone: +44 300 061 2000

Opening hours:
5 a.m. to midnight all year round.

Admission: Admission is free.
**Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain**
The serene fountain silently commemorates the life and death of Princess Diana. A place of quaint beauty.

GPS: N51.50481, W0.17187
**Opening hours:**
Apr – Aug: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Sep: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Mar, Oct: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Nov – Feb: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Marble Arch**
Used to serve as an entry to Buckingham Palace, then it was moved here. Only members of the Royal Family can officially pass under it.

GPS: N51.51330, W0.15931

**Harrods**
This high-end, world famous, department store is garish and stylish at the same time. Worth a visit!

87-135 Brompton Road, Knightsbridge, London, SW1X 7XL, UK
GPS: N51.49950, W0.16359
**Phone:** +44 20 7730 1234
**Opening hours:**
Mon – Sat: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Sun: 11:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

**Battersea Park**
Definitely belongs to the most interesting London parks. Fascinating scenery, rich wildlife, numerous pavilions and statues.

GPS: N51.47943, W0.15695
**Opening hours:**
Open daily: officially from 8 a.m. until dusk
Gates are opened: 6:30 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.

**Madame Tussauds Wax Museum London**
The world-famous wax museum. Would you like to meet the royal family or famous actors? Great photo opportunities.

Marylebone Road, London NW1 5LR, UK
GPS: N51.52279, W0.15531
**Phone:** +44 (0) 871 894 3000
**Opening hours:**
Mon – Fri: 9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. (up to 7 p.m.)
Sat – Sun: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. (up to 7 p.m.)
These opening times are season dependent, so do check out the website to see the opening times on your visiting day.
**Admission:**
Adults: £30.00
Children: £25.80
Family (of 4): £108.00
Book your ticket online at least the day before your visit and save 10% or more.

**Oxford Street London**
Shopaholics must visit Europe's busiest shopping street. Over 300 shops of all sorts and brands.

London W1, UK
GPS: N51.51510, W0.14188
**Phone:** +44 (0)20 7462 0689
**ACTIVITIES**

**Buckingham Palace**
The majestic palace is the official residence of British monarchs. A must-see – do not miss the Changing the Guard ceremony!

London SW1A 1AA, UK  
GPS: N51.50133, W0.14192  
Phone: +44 20 7766 7300  
Opening hours:  
July 27 – Aug 31, 2013: Open daily 9:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
September 1 – 29, 2013: Open daily 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
A typical visit lasts between 2 and 2½ hours.  
Admission:  
Adults: £19.00  
Over 60/Students: £17.50  
Under 17: £10.85  
Family: £50.00 (2+3 under 17s)

**St. James’s Palace**
The oldest royal palace in London still remains an official residence of the sovereign. New kings and queens are crowned here.

Stable Yard Road, Westminster, London SW1A 1, UK  
GPS: N51.50436, W0.13845  
Phone: +44 (0)20 7932 2000  
Opening hours:  
Not open to the public.

**Piccadilly Circus**
A famous road junction crowned by the statue of “Eros” in its middle. Also well-known for the electronic ads displayed on the buildings around.

GPS: N51.50997, W0.13403

**British Museum**
Home to one of the largest collection of works and artefacts that come from all over the world. An amazing experience.

Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG, UK  
GPS: N51.51940, W0.12699  
Phone: +44 20 7323 8299  
Opening hours:  
Daily: 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. (8:30 p.m. on Fridays)  
Admission:  
Free to all visitors.

**National Gallery London**
The gallery holds a collection of over 2,600 pieces – no wonder it is one of the most visited in the world. Come here for classic art.

Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 5DN, UK  
GPS: N51.50845, W0.12960  
Phone: +44 20 7747 2885  
Opening hours:  
Daily: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Fridays 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.  
Admission:  
Free entrance.

**10 Downing Street**
Holding the official residence and office of the the Prime Minister, this is probably the best known address in London.

10 Downing St, City of Westminster, London SW1A, UK  
GPS: N51.50339, W0.12764  
Opening hours:  
This place is not open to public.
**Westminster Abbey**
A magnificent sight and an important commemoration site. More impressive from outside than within.

20 Dean's Yard, London, SW1P 3PA, UK
GPS: N51.49939, W0.12892

**Phone:**
+44 20 7222 5152

**Opening hours:**
Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri: 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Wed: 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sat: 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Sun: worship only, no tourist visiting

**Make sure to check the official website before visiting.**

**Admission:**
Adults: £18.00
Seniors 60+, Students: £15.00
Schoolchildren (11-18 years): £8
Family (2+2): £44

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**Covent Garden**
A popular shopping district where tourists swarm in crowds. The place has a special atmosphere, do not miss it.

GPS: N51.51291, W0.12424

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**Trafalgar Square**
Could be called one of London's centres, with many cultural events taking place here. There's always something happening here.

Westminster, London WC2N 5, UK
GPS: N51.50791, W0.12885

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**Big Ben**
One of the main London landmarks. Clock Tower with 4 clock faces, a part of Westminster Palace.

Palace of Westminster, House of Commons, London, SW1A OAA, UK
GPS: N51.50076, W0.12466

**Phone:**
+44 20 7219 4272

**Opening hours:**
Mon – Fri: Tours take place at set times of 9:15 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and 2:15 p.m.
except Bank Holidays
Open to UK permanent residents only. Booking essential.

**Admission:**
Clock Tower tours are currently free of charge but the demand is very high – the tour must be arranged months ahead.

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**London Eye**
Come for a ride on Europe's largest Ferris wheel. The views from the top are simply fabulous, especially at night.

Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7PB, UK
GPS: N51.50319, W0.11965

**Phone:**
+44 (0)871 781 3000

**Opening hours:**
In 2013:
1st Sep – 30th Dec: 10 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.
24th Dec: 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
31st Dec: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
1st – 5th Jan 2014: 10 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.
6th – 17th January 2014: closed

**Admission:**
Adults: 16+: £19.20
Seniors: £15.30
Children (4-15 years): £12.30
Tickets are cheaper when bought on the internet.
London Sea Life Aquarium / London Aquarium
One of the largest aquariums in Europe. Explore the aquariums full of fish and other creatures. Perfect family day out!
County Hall, Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7PB, UK
GPS: N51.50221, W0.11921
Phone: +44 (0)871 663 1678
Opening hours:
Mon – Sun: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Admission:
Adults: £20.70
Children (3-15 years): £15.00
2 Adults + 2 Children: £64.26
Plenty of special offers are available on the website.

Tate Modern
A phenomenally successful modern and contemporary art gallery housed in a former power station. Well worth a visit!
Bankside, London SE1 9TG, UK
GPS: N51.50786, W0.10038
Phone: +44 (0)20 7887 8888
Opening hours:
Sun – Thu: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Fri – Sat: 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Admission:
Admission is free, except for special exhibitions.

Globe Theatre
The modern replica of the theatre where some of Shakespeare's plays were staged for the first time. Book your tickets ahead.
21 New Globe Walk, London SE1 9DT, UK
GPS: N51.50826, W0.09682
Phone: +44 20 7902 1400
Opening hours:
Guided tours are available.
Mon: 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. (9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. for the exhibition)
Tue – Sat: 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (5:30 p.m. for the exhibition)
Sun: 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. for the exhibition)
Tours depart every half an hour in the times shown.
Admission:
Tour tickets:
Adults: £13.50
Seniors (60+): £12.00
Students (with valid ID): £11.00
Children (5-15): £8.00
Children (under 5): Free
Family (2+3): £36.00
**St. Paul's Cathedral**

An enormous white cathedral and London's highest point. Do not miss this famous sight with its elaborate interiors and crypts.

Saint Paul's Churchyard, London EC4M 8AD, UK

GPS: N51.51376, W0.09823

Phone: +44 20 7246 8350

Opening hours:
- Mon – Sat: 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Sun: open for worship only

Admission:
- Adults: £16.00
- Concessions (Students & Seniors): £14.00
- Children (6-17): £7.00
- Family (2+2): £39.00

Online rates are cheaper.

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**Tower of London**

Also known as Her Majesty's Royal Palace and Fortress, the former prison complex is now home to the Crown Jewels.

London, EC3N 4AB, UK

GPS: N51.50848, W0.07669

Phone: +44 20 3166 6000

Opening hours:
- Tue – Sat: 9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Sun – Mon: 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Last admission 5 p.m.

From November to February, the closing times are an hour shorter.

Admission:
- Adults: £21.45
- Over 60/Students: £18.15
- Children (under 16): £10.75
- Book online for online booking discounts.

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**Tower Bridge**

This fascinating bridge is one of London's icons. The views from top are amazing and it's quite a sight to see the bridge open for ships, too.

Tower Bridge Road, London, SE1 2UP, UK

GPS: N51.50503, W0.07579

Phone: +44 20 7403 3761

Opening hours:
- Apr – Sept: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- Oct – Mar: 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

The bridge lift times can be found on the official website.

Admission:
- Adult: £8.00
- Child (aged 5-15): £3.40
- Over 60/Student: £5.60