

The Tower of London



The first part of the Tower of London was built by William the Conqueror in 1078 but what we now call the Tower is actually a collection of several different buildings.

The Tower of London has been used for many things since it was first built. Hundreds of years ago it was most famous as a prison where some prisoners were even tortured or killed! Now it is just as famous as the home of the crown jewels which have been kept there since the year 1303.



This was **traitor's gate**. Many prisoners of the tower were brought there by boat.

Locked up!

The most famous people to be locked up in the Tower of London were Queen Elizabeth I and Guy Fawkes.

Did You Know?

The full name of the Tower of London is actually **Her Majesty's Royal Palace and Fortress**.

Ghosts!

Many people say that the Tower is the most haunted building in England. The most famous ghost is said to be Anne Boleyn. She was married to King Henry VIII but in 1536 he had her head chopped off!!

The British Museum



The **British Museum** in London is one of the world's largest and most important museums of human history and culture. It has more than seven million objects from all continents.

The British Museum set up in 1753 and opened in 1759. It was the first museum in the world to be open to everyone. The museum gradually grew over the next two hundred years. It has nearly six million visitors a year and is the third most popular art museum in the world.

Did You Know?

Parts of the museum were destroyed by bombs in 1940



A giant sculpture of Ramesses II. It is nearly 2.7 metres tall and weighs about 7.5 tonnes. It is on display in Room 4 of the British Museum's Egyptian department.



The Great Court is the largest covered public space in Europe.

The London Eye



The London Eye is the most popular paid tourist attraction in the United Kingdom, visited by over 3 million people every year!

The London Eye was opened by Tony Blair (who was the Prime Minister at the time) on December 31st 1999. This is why it is sometimes called the Millennium Wheel. By June 2008, over 30 million people had been on it!

Did You Know?

It takes 30 minutes to go all the way round the wheel

It's wheely expensive!

The cost of going on the London Eye is £15.50 for adults or £7.75 for children.

Get on quick!

The wheel moves so slowly that it doesn't stop to let people on - you have to get on and off while it is still moving!



There are 32 capsules on the wheel, each one holding up to 24 people.



Big Ben



Big Ben is the name given to the large bell inside the clock tower of the Palace of Westminster (also known as the Houses of Parliament). The tower was built by Charles Barry after the old one was destroyed by fire in 1834.

Did You Know?

The tower is over
96 metres tall!



Cold hands!

On December 31st 1962, the clock slowed down because of the ice and snow on the hands!



About time!

The clock was finished in 1854, but the tower wasn't completed until 1859 so for 5 whole years they had nowhere to put the clock!

The hour hand on the clock is nearly 3 metres long and the minute hand is over 4 metres long! These men are cleaning the clock face.

Piccadilly Circus



The phrase *it's like Piccadilly Circus* is commonly used in the UK to refer to a place or situation which is extremely busy with people.

Piccadilly Circus is one of London's most popular tourist destinations. Here you can sit by the famous statue of Eros (a popular meeting point), or take some photos in front of the iconic advertising boards. From here, you can easily walk to Regent's Street, Piccadilly or Soho

10 Downing Street



10 Downing Street is home to the British Prime Minister. Look through the gates from Whitehall and see the famous black door which can only be opened from the inside. The residence was presented by King George II in 1733 to Robert Walpole, the first official Prime Minister of the country.

The street was built in the 1680s by Sir George Downing, 1st Baronet

Buckingham Palace

Originally called **Buckingham House**, the building was a large townhouse built for the Duke of Buckingham in 1703.



Did You Know?

Only during the summer
can you tour the 19
State Rooms.

ATTENTION!

At 11am every morning you can see 'the changing of the guard'

There are 775 rooms, including 19 state rooms, 52 principal bedrooms, 188 staff bedrooms, 92 offices, and 78 bathrooms. The palace also has its own post office, cinema, swimming pool, doctor's surgery, and jeweller's workshop.



The Tower of London



The Gherkin was completed in December 2003. It is 180 metres tall and has 40 floors! The building was designed by Norman Foster who also designed City Hall, the Millennium Bridge and Wembley Stadium!

On 21st February 2007, the Gherkin was sold for an amazing £630 million! The building today is used as offices but also has a restaurant on the 39th floor.



↖
The bottom of the tower.

Did you know?

The full name of the Gherkin is actually **30 St Mary Axe**.



Work began on the Gherkin in March 2001

What a view!

The building is so big that it can be seen from the M11 motorway over 20 miles away!

Green Gherkin

The Gherkin was designed to be very environmentally friendly and only uses half the power of other towers like it.

Houses of Parliament



The Houses of Parliament is where politicians meet to make important decisions about how the country should be run. The parliament of England has met here since the year 1295.

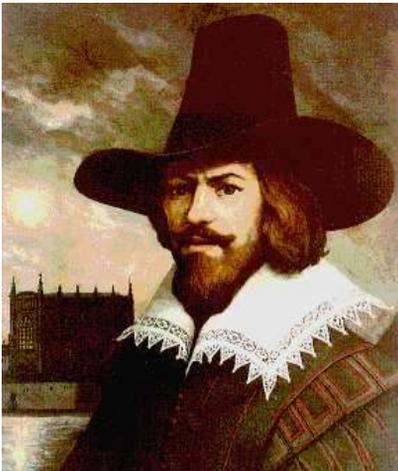
Did You Know?

The real name for the Houses of Parliament is the **Palace of Westminster**

Look smart!

Hats are not allowed to be worn in the Houses of Parliament and you are not even allowed to walk around with your hands in your pockets!

The palace has 1100 rooms, 100 staircases and 4800 metres of corridors!



The Gunpowder Plot

On 5th November 1605, Guy Fawkes and a group of his friends tried to kill King James I by blowing up the Houses of Parliament using gunpowder. The plot failed and all the men were sentenced to death.

Tower Bridge



Tower Bridge was opened on 30th June 1894. It is open to cars and pedestrians and is crossed by 40,000 people every day! You can pay to go up the towers and walk across the walkway between them.

Jumping Bridge!

In 1952 a bus driver jumped over a gap in the bridge as it was mistakenly opening. None of his passengers was hurt and he received £10 for his bravery!

Did You Know?

People sometimes call Tower Bridge 'London Bridge' by mistake - that's the next one along the river!



The bridge can open to let boats through. This happens about 1000 times a year.

The River Thames



The River Thames is 215 miles long and as well as flowing through London it also runs through other towns and cities like Oxford, Reading and Windsor.



Did You Know?

In 1683 the River Thames was completely frozen for 2 months

To stop the river flooding, the Thames Barrier was built in 1982. It cost £535 million!



London Bridge was one of the first bridges across the river. This picture of the bridge in the year 1616 shows that people used to live on it!

London Underground



The London Underground, also known as the *Tube* is the world's oldest underground railway. It was also the first underground railway to use electric trains.

The earliest parts of the underground system were begun in 1863. Today there are 270 stations and 250 miles of track! The *Tube* map is one of the most famous maps in the world. There are 11 lines, all shown in different colour on the map.



The first line ran between Paddington station and Farringdon street and opened on 10th January 1863. The second line was the Hammersmith and City railway which opened the year after.

Did you know?

About 3 million people go on the London Underground every day!

Most tourists buy tickets from stations but people who use the trains every day usually pay using an *Oyster Card*.

