

# The sights of London



# Big Ben





# Big Ben

Big Ben is one of London's best-known landmarks, and looks most spectacular at night when the clock faces are illuminated. You even know when parliament is in session, because a light shines above the clock face.

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.



# The Tower of London





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The Tower of London is one of the most imposing and popular of London's historical sites. It comprises not one, but 20 towers. The oldest of which, the White Tower, dates back to the 11th century and the time of William the Conqueror.

Nowadays a lot of tourists visit the Tower of London, because of the Tower's evil reputation as a prison. The Tower is famous as home of the Crown Jewels. Today they can be viewed in their new jewel house. They include the Crown of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother which contains the celebrated Indian diamond.



# Buckingham Palace





# Buckingham Palace

Buckingham Palace, one of London's most popular historical buildings, was built in 1703 for the Duke of Buckingham. Later restored by Nash, the present facade was planned by Sir Aston Webb in 1913. At the west end of the Mall, Buckingham Palace is the London residence of the Sovereign. Buckingham Palace is not only the royal residence: it's a small city under one roof. It has a cinema, a post-office, some cafes and a restaurant, a hospital and even a night club. More than 700 people work here every day.



# The National Gallery





# The National Gallery

The National Gallery in Trafalgar Square has one of the best balanced picture collections in the world. It can show the progress of Italian painting from the medieval to the mature mastery of Renaissance; some outstanding pictures of the old Roman masters; an excellent choice of Spanish painters, with El Greco, Velasquez, and Ribera leading; a great variety of unsurpassed Dutch and Flemish masters; a most valuable display of French paintings from the early days of the Impressionists; and, of course, the bulk of the finest English painting, with Gainsborough, Turner, Constable, and Reynolds.



# Trafalgar Square





# Trafalgar Square

Trafalgar Square, set in central London, is one of Britain's great tourist attractions. A visit to the capital would be incomplete without going to marvel at Nelson's Column and the four giant lions at its base, or to admire the lovely splashing fountains and to feed the pigeons, who have made their home here. Built to commemorate Admiral Nelson, the square was named after the Spanish Cape Trafalgar where his last battle was won.



# Westminster Abbey





# Westminster Abbey

Westminster Abbey is regarded as the centre of this area. They say the City was founded here near the monastery as far back as the 7th century.

Many English kings and queens and other famous statesmen, writers, scientists are buried in Westminster Abbey. Among them there are two queens rivals Elizabeth I Tudor and Mary Stuart. Oliver Cromwell. Charles Dickens. Rudyard Kipling, Isaac Newton and Charles Darwin. It is famous for the Poet's Corner, where most popular writers (Kipling, Chaucer, Hardy, Dickens), poets and musicians are buried.



# The British Museum





# The British Museum

The British Museum is an almost incomparable introduction to Egyptian, Greek, and Roman arts in all their branches, from pottery to sculpture; and it can hold its own with antiquity department of the Louvre or the prewar Pergamon Museum in Berlin. The collection has been arranged with great care, and the layout is clear and easy to grasp.



# The Tate Gallery





# The Tate Gallery

The Tate Gallery in Millbank has a collection complementary to that of the National Gallery, for it presents modern masters of England and France. Its collections of French Impressionists is outstanding, and there are some fine examples of modern sculpture.



# St. Paul's Cathedral



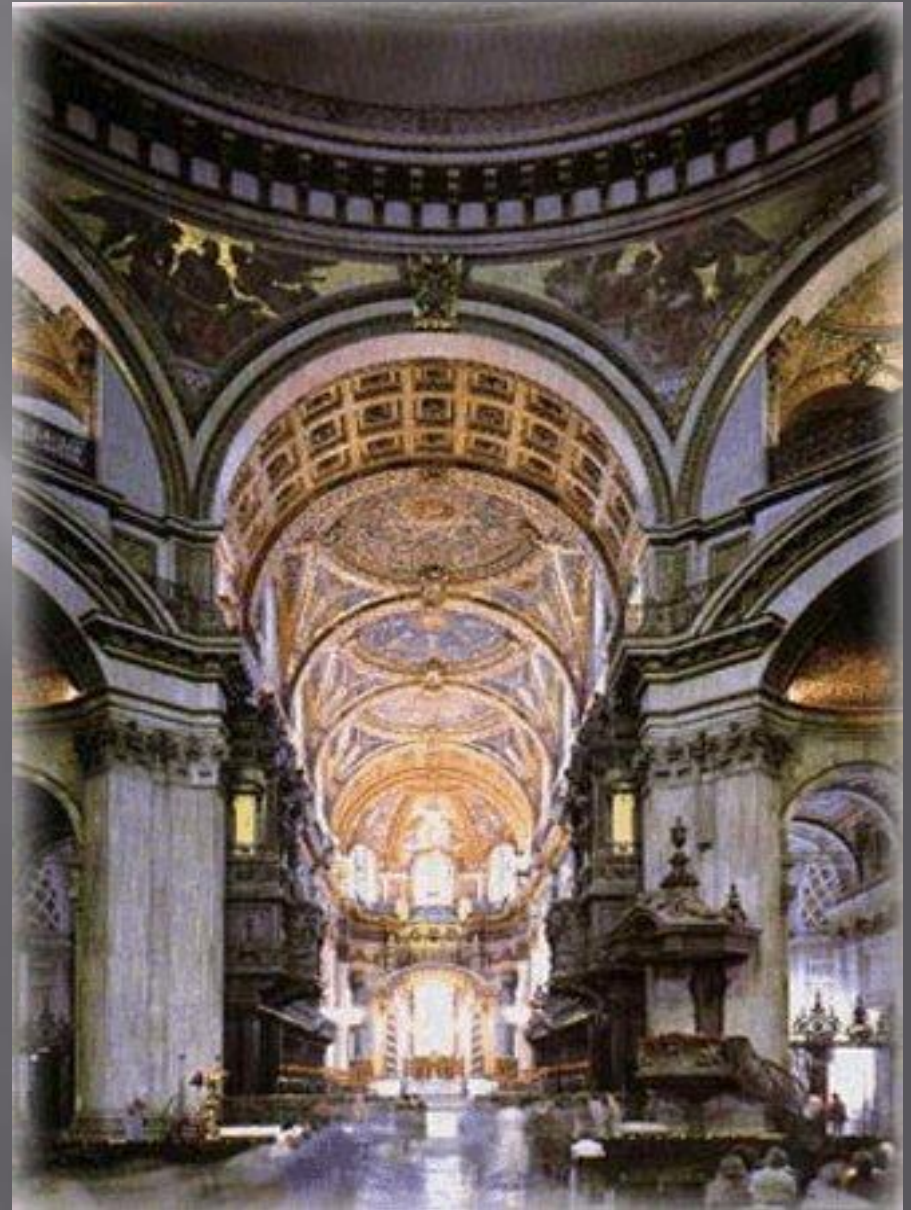


# St. Paul's Cathedral

St. Paul's Cathedral is in the centre of London and is considered to be an architectural masterpiece.

St. Paul's Cathedral was the greatest work of Sir Christopher Wren. It is one of the largest churches in the world. Sir Wren was building the Cathedral for 35 years, completed it in 1711, and his aim was to build a church that could rival the great St. Peter Basilica in Rome. St. Paul was built of white stone.

On top of St. Paul's Cathedral is a high dome, which contains the Whispering Gallery, where whisper can be heard at a great distance.



# The Victoria and Albert Museum





# The Victoria and Albert Museum

The Victoria and Albert Museum in Brompton Road has a splendid collection mainly of the applied arts, of all countries and periods, also a new Costume Court, and many exhibits of interest to any student of the visual arts.



# Madam Tussaud's museum





# Madam Tussaud's Museum

Madam Tussaud's is the most popular and talked about wax museum in the world. There are wax models of the famous and infamous, both living and dead, from every walk of life.

Elvis Presley, the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Marilyn Monro, Michael Jackson, Alfred Hitchcock, Charlie Chaplin, the British Royal family, Bill Clinton, Jack the Ripper ... There is no other place where you can see all the celebrities at once, even if they are only wax figures. So if you want to rub shoulders with kings and queens or the latest pop stars, or probably with notorious criminals, this is the place to go.



# London Eye





# London Eye

This huge, highest big wheel in the world — one of gifts to Londoners and city visitors to 2000 32 cabins of a wheel calculated on 25 persons each, make a complete revolution for half an hour. Building was financed by the company "British Airways". From height of 135 m there is the most beautiful view of London, and if weather is favorable, you will see a city and its vicinities in radius of 40 km.



# City University London





# City University London

The university is included strongly into first "six" of the most popular high schools among entrants. Despite its technical past, at the moment the majority of students it is trained here in art, business and social studies. Over the last 5 years the quantity of students has doubled. At university fine conditions for study, playing sports and active public life are created.



# Hyde Park





# Hyde Park

Hyde Park is one of the largest parks in central London, United Kingdom, and one of the Royal Parks of London, famous for its Speakers' Corner.

The park is divided in two by the Serpentine. The park is contiguous with Kensington Gardens; although often still assumed to be part of Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens has been technically separate since 1728, when Queen Caroline made a division between the two. Hyde Park covers 142 hectares (350 acres) and Kensington Gardens covers 111 hectares (275 acres), giving an overall area of 253 hectares (625 acres), making the combined area larger than the Principality of Monaco (196 ha/484 acres), though smaller than New York City's Central Park (341 ha/843 acres).

