

London is the capital city of England and one of the biggest cities in the world. It is located on the River Thames. London's history goes back to its founding by the Romans (around 43 A.D.), who named it *Londinium*.

There are approximately 8,200,000 people living in the city.

It is the world's leading financial centre alongside New York City.



London Heathrow is one of the world's busiest airports by the number of international passengers (after Atlanta and Beijing)



London has 43 universities. The most important are:

University College London (UCL)
Imperial College London
King's College London

London has diverse cultures, and more than 300 languages are spoken within the city. So, London is definitely a multicultural city!

The 5 most important ethnic groups composing the population of London are:

- British
- Indians
- Polish
- Irish
- Nigerians

Some famous landmarks that tourists can visit are:



London Eye (EGF Energy London Eye)



It is a giant observation (or big) wheel, also known as the Millennium Wheel.



Tower of London



In 1078, William the Conqueror built the first part of the Tower, the White Tower, as a fortress. Over the centuries, other kings and queens extended the Tower and used it as a palace or prison. Prisoners usually arrived by boat and entered the Tower through Traitor's Gate, which faces the river.

Worth seeing in the Tower are old armours and weapons, the crown jewels and the famous ravens. People say that as long as there are six ravens at the Tower, England is safe from invasion.

Tower Bridge

Tower Bridge is the most famous bridge in London. It opened in 1894. The bridge only needs 90 seconds to lift. This happens about 500 times a year.



HMS Belfast

Her Majesty's Ship – HMS Belfast played an important role during World War II. The ship weighs 11,500 tons and is a museum now.



London Dungeon

The London Dungeon is in an old subterranean prison (that's what the word Dungeon stands for). The wax museum takes its visitors on a scary journey through England's history of brutal killings and tortures.



When you are in the Dungeon, watch out for creepy creatures - the Dungeon employs actors who are dressed as monsters, ghosts or executers. They hide in dark corners and then suddenly jump out to give you the fright of your life.

Globe Theatre



The Globe Theatre opened in 1997. It is a replica of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, which burned down in 1613 during a performance of Shakespeare's play Henry VIII.

In the Globe Theatre, you can experience what the theatre was like at Shakespeare's time. The theatre had no roof, there were no electric lights and hardly any decoration.

Houses of Parliament



The official name of the Houses of Parliament is Palace of Westminster. This is because it was the royal palace before the king moved to Whitehall Palace in 1529. Now the palace is home to the United Kingdom Parliament.

On 5 November 1605, some radical Catholics wanted to blow up the Houses of Parliament. But they were not successful. Guards searched the cellars of the Palace and found 36 barrels of gunpowder. Every year on 5 November people commemorate Guy Fawkes Day (or Gunpowder Day) with fireworks and bonfires.

In 1834, a fire destroyed most of the palace. Between 1840 and 1888, Sir Charles Barry rebuilt the Palace of Westminster and also added the famous clocktower that everybody knows as Big Ben. Actually, it is only the name of the biggest bell in the clock tower, which rings the hour. Big Ben takes its name from Sir Benjamin Hall, who ordered the casting of the 16 ton bell in 1856.

DOGGEREL:

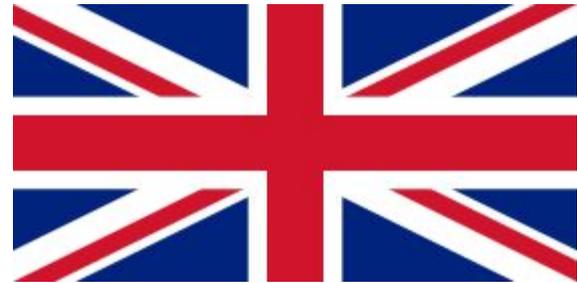
« Remember, remember,
the fifth of November,
Gunpowder, treason and plot.

I see no reason
why Gunpowder treason
Should ever be forgot! »



Buckingham Palace

Buckingham Palace is the Queen's residence in London. When the Queen is in the palace, you can see the Royal Standard on the roof of the palace. If the Queen is not in the palace, you see the Union Jack.



Buckingham Palace has 600 rooms, a park, a swimming-pool and even a cinema. The royal family lives in the north wing of the palace.



The Changing of the Guard is at 11:30 am. It takes place every day in summer and every second day for the rest of the year.



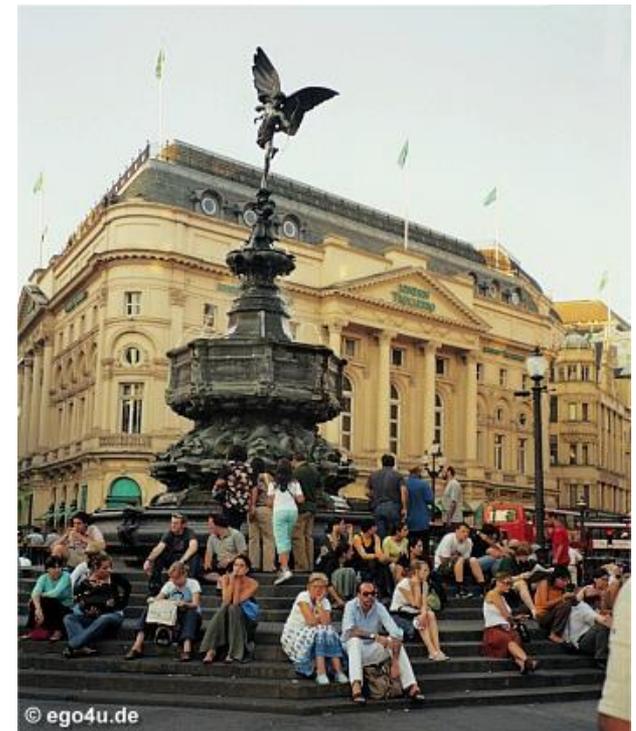
Trafalgar Square



Trafalgar Square takes its name from Admiral Nelson's famous victory in the Battle of Trafalgar on 21 October 1805. Nelson's Column is 56 m high and on top you can see the statue of Admiral Nelson, who died in the battle. The building in the background is the National Gallery. It is a famous gallery with lots of old and valuable paintings. The entry to the gallery is free. On New Year's Eve, Trafalgar Square is a popular meeting place.

Piccadilly Circus

Piccadilly Circus is the centre of London's nightlife. Its neon lights are famous all over the world. The Eros fountain is a great meeting place if you want to go to one of the plenty restaurants, bars, nightclubs or theatres nearby. The Rock Circus with wax figures of famous rock stars, is also at Piccadilly Circus. At the entrance of the museum you get headphones, so you can hear the stars sing. The highlight of the museum is a spectacular concert with moving wax figures.



Millennium Bridge, St Paul's Cathedral

Millennium Bridge is a footbridge over the river Thames.



In the background, you can see St Paul's Cathedral. Its cupola is very special: go up there with a friend. Ask your friend to put his/her ear against the wall of the cupola. Then go to the other side and whisper against the wall. Your friend will hear every word you whisper, although you are 34 m apart. This is why the cupola of St Paul's Cathedral is also called Whispering Gallery.



**What is the name of the person
who wanted to blow up the
Palace of Westminster in 1605?**

- Guy Fawkes
- Gay Forkes
- Boy Hawkes

Which London sight can you see in the picture?

- Houses of Parliament
- Globe Theatre
- Tower of London



Which London sight can you see in the picture?

- Tower of London
- St Paul's Cathedral
- Buckingham Palace



**Which famous museum is at
Piccadilly Circus?**

- London Dungeon
- National Gallery
- Rock Circus

Which London sight can you see in the picture?

- St Paul's Cathedral
- Westminster Abbey
- Buckingham Palace



**How often per year does the
Tower Bridge lift nowadays to let
ships through?**

-about 50 times per year

-never

-about 500 times per year

What does HMS mean?

- Hear My Signal**
- Honoured Marine Symbol**
- Her Majesty's Ship**

**At what time does the Changing
of the Guard take place in front
of Buckingham Palace?**

- at half past eleven
- at half past ten
- at half past nine