

London

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Great Britain.

The British Isles lie in the north-west of Europe. They consist of two large islands, Great Britain and Ireland, and many smaller ones. Great Britain, the largest island in Europe, includes England, Scotland, and Wales.

London.

London is the capital of England, Great Britain and UK. It is the largest town in Europe and one of the oldest towns in the world. The old Celts gave it its name, the Romans made it the centre of their new colony, the Germanic invaders tried to burn and to destroy it, of victorious Normans made it the capital of the country.



Central part.

The central part of London is full of historical remains. Nearly every building, every bridge, every street, palace, house and stone – each of them has its own story, its own past.

City.

The oldest part of London is called the City. In the City the streets and pavements are very narrow and the traffic is very heavy on weekdays. That is because the most important London firms and banks have offices there. But at weekend the City is almost dead. The tower of London, the Bank of England, the Mansion House, the Law Courts, and many interesting old churches are situated in the City.



The Tower of London



- The Tower of London is an old castle, with high walls, high towers, small windows and large gardens. Once it was a royal residence, a strong fortress and a state prison. Here many important people, among them two wives of Henry 8, were imprisoned and beheaded.



West End.

The most fashionable and the most expensive part to live in is the West End. The City and the West End are the heart of London ; they are the parts which everybody who comes to London must see and wants to see, because they are more interesting than any other parts of London. All the most interesting buildings, shops and offices are situated there. The House of parliament with Big Ben, Westminster Abbey, the National Gallery and many theatres and good shops are in the West End.



Big Ben.

The big clock on the tower of the Palace of Westminster in London is often called Big Ben. But Big Ben is really the bell of the clock. It is the biggest clock bell in Britain. It weighs 13.5 tons. The clock tower is 318 feet high. You have to go up 374 steps to reach the top. So the clock looks small from the pavement below the tower. But its face is 23 feet wide. It would only just fit into some classrooms. The minute-hand is 14 feet long. Its weight is equal to that of 2 bags of coal. The hour-hand is 9 feet long. The clock bell is called Big Ben after Sir Benjamin Hall. He was very big man.



Westminster Abbey.

Westminster Abbey is one of the most beautiful buildings in London. There are many monuments of great men there. Many great English scientists lie buried there: among them Newton, Darwin and Watt. In the Poets' Corner some of the famous English poets and writers are buried.

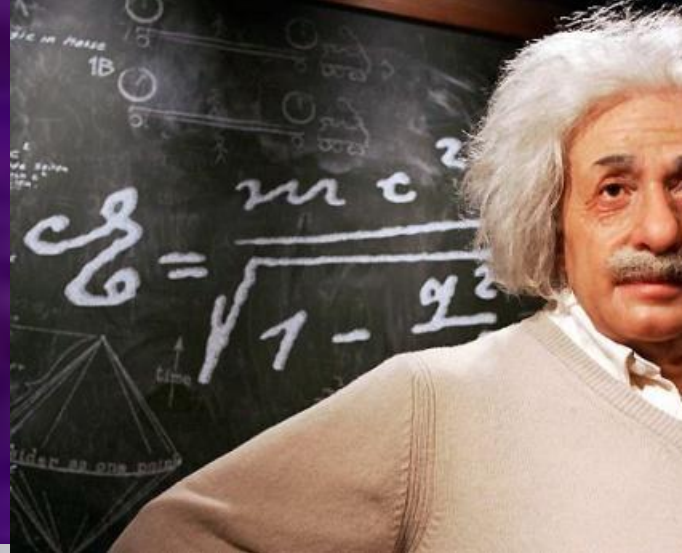




Madam Tussaud's museum

It is one of the sights of London. It's the famous waxworks museum, which has one of the largest collections of wax models in the world. Here you can meet the famous, of course and the infamous: an unforgettable experience. You can meet great characters of history and art. Here actors, film stars, pop-singers and sportsmen come face to face with famous politicians.







The End.