



David McGuffin's EXPLORING EUROPE



LONDON

Destination Guide Part 1



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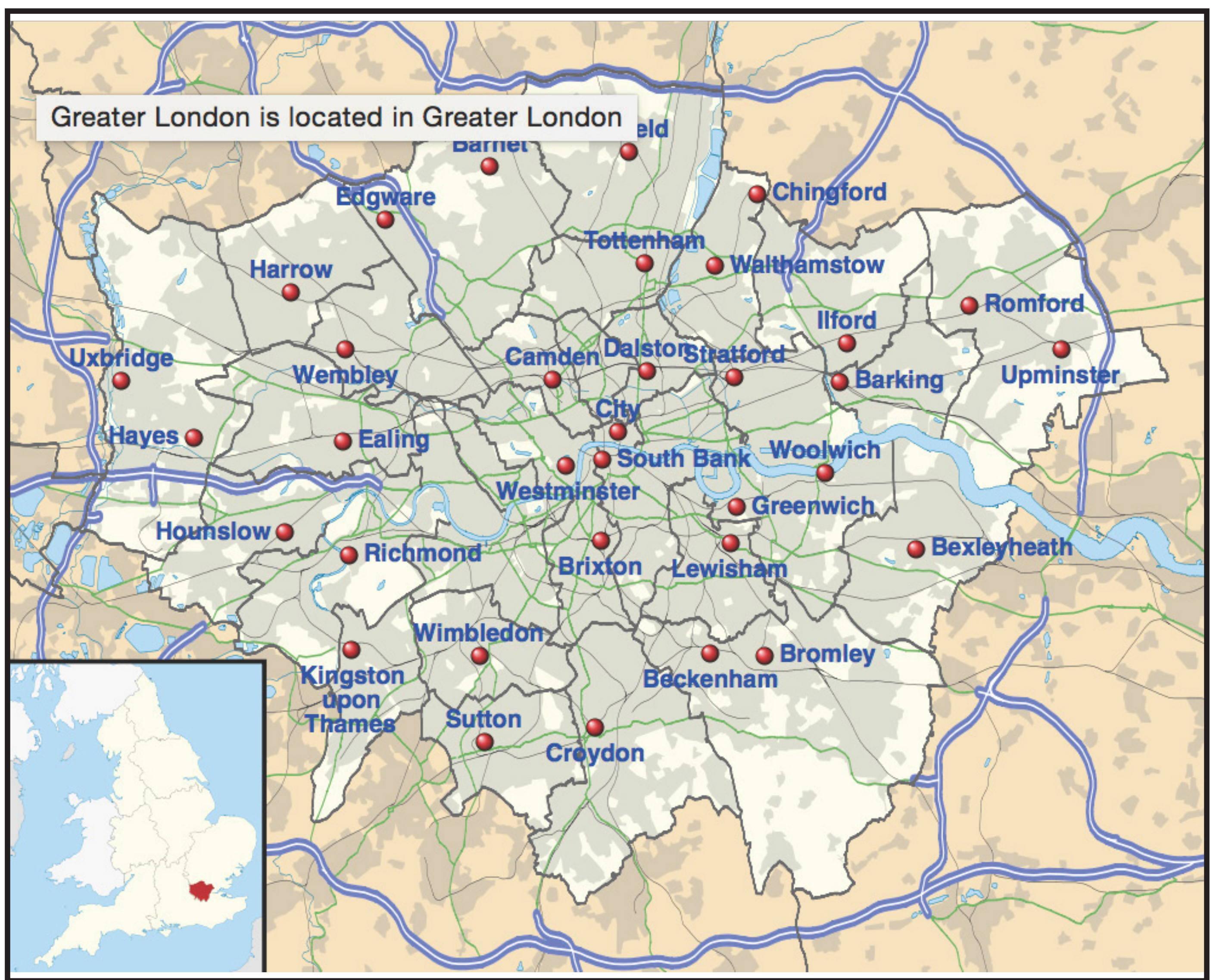
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Greater London covers almost 600 square miles and is home to a little more than 8 million people. Actually, Greater London consists of the City of London and 32 Boroughs fanning out from its central core. There is no way to “see it all” in just one visit, but having a plan can making your sightseeing and experiences rewarding and enjoyable. I like to tackle London in little sightseeing chunks of time broken up by well-deserved relaxation in a park, café, museum, church service, or even a nap at my hotel. Hopping on an opened-top double decker bus and taking a ride is a great introduction to the city. Each borough has its own character and feel. From the bus you can see the “biggies” like Big Ben, the House of Parliament, Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, the Tower of London, and the British Museum.



But more importantly, you'll get an up-close glimpse of everyday life on the street. London is alive with people of many cultures. You're more likely to find a kebab shop or Chinese restaurant than a pub or fish and chips shop. And although you are in England, where the primary language is English, you are more likely to hear a sampling of many other world languages when passing people on the street.

London has changed a lot in the last two decades. You'll be surprised to find how different it is from the nice prim and proper English capital city it was in the mid-twentieth century. White "English" people are a minority in many parts of the city. Arabs fill the areas north of Hyde Park, there is a Chinatown just steps from Leicester Square, and Eastern Europeans have moved to London by the droves. I mention this diversity because I want you to understand that London is a whole lot more than a city of tourist sights and monuments. London is like Miami, New York, Los Angeles, Boston, and Chicago rolled into one big cultural cauldron. It is growing and changing everyday... and you'll get to be a part of this growth during your visit.

Population: 8,615,246 (1/6/2015 est.)
44.9% White British
13.3% Black
14.9% Other White
5% Mixed
18.4% Asian (South)
3.4% Other

Introduction

London is a tourist's city. It has been a sightseeing destination for centuries and consequentially, caters very well to travelers. The sights, entertainment, dining, museums, parks, and churches are all connected by an amazing public transit system that shuttles millions each day. On your travels, you'll no doubt enjoy the spruced-up and spiffy sights and services implemented for the 2012 Olympics and the Queen's Golden Jubilee. It's a pedestrian-friendly city with lots of traffic-free spaces, footbridges, and a footpath along both sides of the Thames.

Now let's get prepared to experience London! In this guide I've organized the information into sections. In the overview section you find information such as transportation, maps, touring hints, emergency numbers, and tourist information. I've grouped all the sights into their own sections detailing the cost, hours, and descriptions. Another sections has a few self-guided walks and tours that will help you make sense out of what you are seeing.

Shopping is important to many and I've included a section to help you sort through the countless options. London is famous for theatre, musicals and shows so there is a section here dealing with how to get a ticket and see a show. Finally, I've included a section called "Farther Afield" that address some sights you can visit for a day trip from London.

My goal is to provide practical and useful information that will help make your trip to London enjoyable and fulfilling. Armed with the information here, I hope you can slowdown and experience London!

Have a great trip... *Cheerio!*



London flag

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Getting around London

The best way to get around London is to buy a travel pass, which will let you travel as many times as you like during the day. The two best options are **Oyster cards** and **Travelcards**

Where to Purchase:

Oyster cards and Travelcards can be purchased at any Tube station. Oyster cards can also be purchased at London Travel Information Centers and in Oyster Ticket Stops (look for the blue sign that says “Oyster available here”).

Where Can You Travel:

This will depend on the type of card that you buy. Prices vary depending on how many zones are covered. Most London attractions are located in zones 1 and 2.

Ways to get around:

With an Oyster card or a Travelcard, you can travel on the Tube, Docklands Light Railway (DLR), London Overground, buses with the red circle logo, trams, and National Rail stops within your chosen zones. You can get a discount on river buses (pay as you go card discounts on Thames Clippers services only, Travelcards get cheaper fares with all operators). The Emirates Air Line cable car also offers discounted fares for Oyster cards and Travelcards.

Cost

With the Oyster cards, you can load any amount that you choose to the card and then you pay as you go. In Zones 1-2, one trip on the Tube, DLR and London Overground costs £4.80 if you pay in cash, or £2.30 (£2.90 before 9:30AM on the weekdays) with the Oyster card. Bus and tram fare is £1.50 and cash is not accepted. Pay-as-you-go on the Oyster cards is capped at £6.40 per day, no matter how many times you ride (provided you stay within Zones 1-2). You can also purchase Travelcards and load them to your Oyster card.

A 7-day Travelcard costs £32.10.
Calculate which option is right for you.

If you run out of credit, you can load more money to your Oyster card at the touchscreen ticket machines in the Tube, DLR and London Overground stations, and at Oyster Ticket Stops. You can add money with a debit card, credit card or cash. Touch your card to the card reader to see your balance and then again at the end to complete your purchase.

You can also **get reimbursed** for any unused money on your Oyster card at any Tube station ticket office. You will need ID and proof of address to request a refund. You can always keep your and use it when you are next in London. Be sure to check the balance on your card at a Tube station ticket machine before you leave for home. There is no refund available for unused days on the Travelcard.

Using your Oyster card

On the Tube, DLR and London Overground, touch your Oyster card to the yellow card reader at the gates and

wait for the green light to show when you start your journey, and again when you end your journey. Where there are no gates, look for free-standing or wall-mounted card readers instead.

Ask a staff member if you need help. Be sure to scan your card on the way out or you will be charged a maximum fare, and maybe even a penalty fare. On buses and trams, you only need to scan your card at the start of your journey.

Using a paper Travelcard

If you choose to buy a paper Travelcard (and not load it to your Oyster card), you will need to put it through the turnstiles for the Tube, DLR and London Overground. You just need to show it to the conductors on the buses.

Public Transportation in London

The London Underground (aka the Tube)

The first train was built in 1863 and subway travel has defined London since then. The roundel logo for the Tube is easily recognizable (the red circle with the blue bar).

There are 11 color-coded lines that run Northbound and Southbound trains, and Eastbound and Westbound trains. Make sure you check the final destination displayed on your train to make sure you are going the right way.

Hours of Operation: Most trains run from 05:00 to 00:30 (Sunday 07:30 to 23:30). If possible, avoid traveling during rush hour (17:30 to 19:00).

Etiquette: Stand on the right and walk on the left when using the escalators. Stand behind the yellow line while waiting for the train. Wait for passengers to leave the train before boarding. Once inside the train, move down so you don't block the door for other passengers. Offer your seat to anyone who is unwell, elderly, pregnant or traveling with children. Hold onto the rails if you are standing. Mind the gap when you get off the train.



Buses

Take a ride on one of London's iconic double-decker buses. Some bus routes are especially good for sightseeing; try routes 9, 14, 15 and 22.

Hours of Operation: Buses generally run from 05:00 to 00:30. Night buses operate on many major routes from midnight to 05:00.

Etiquette: Wait for passengers to leave the bus before boarding. Offer your seat to anyone who is unwell, elderly, pregnant or traveling with children. Hold on if you are standing. Be careful on the stairs when you get off the bus.

Docklands Light Railway (DLR)

These are driverless trains that travel to the Docklands, East and Southeast London. Take the DLR to visit Canary Wharf, Cutty Sark for Maritime Greenwich, ExCeL London, London City Airport or Wool-wich Arsenal. Discover things to do and download a free audio guide on the website: dlrlondon.co.uk

Hours of Operation: 05:00 to 00:30 (Sunday 07:00 to 23:30)

Etiquette: See the London Underground

London Overground

London Overground are local train services which run on four routes and provide an orbital network around the capital. They are a great way to see the hidden parts of London

Hours of Operation: 05:00 a00:30

(Sundays 11:00 to 23:30)

Etiquette: See the London Underground

London River Services (River Buses)

Traveling by boat on the River Thames is a relaxing way to see the sights. Why not take a river bus instead of hopping on the Tube? You can get a reduced fare when you show your Oyster card or Trav-elcard. Popular stops include: Millbank Pier for Tate Britain; London Eye Pier for the London Eye; Bankside Pier for Tate Modern; Tower Pier for the Tower of London and Tower Bridge; Greenwich Pier for Greenwich and North Greenwich Pier for the Emirates Air Line cable car.

Trams

Tram services run in south London between Wimbledon, Croydon, Beckenham and New Addington. Visit [tfl.gov.uk/ trams](https://tfl.gov.uk/trams) for more information.

Emirates Air Line (cable car)

This is London's first cable car service. It crosses the River Thames and runs from the O2 to ExCel London. It's a great way to see panoramic views of London from the air both by day and night. The Emirates Air Line is close to the Tube (North Greenwich), DLR (Royal Victoria), and the London River Service (North Greenwich Pier). Prices range from a one-way ticket (£4.50 / £3.40 w/ Oyster card discount) to the full experience (£10.70 / £8.40 w/ Oyster discount), which includes entry to the Emirates Aviation Experience.



Barclays Cycle Hire

If you're feeling adventurous you can explore London by bike. Barclays Cycle Hire is a public bike hire scheme for short journeys across London. There are over 10,000 bikes for hire and 700 docking stations. You don't need to book in advance. Go to any docking station with your credit or debit card to get started and buy bike access for £2 for 24 hours. You can return the bike to any docking station. If you return the bike to a docking station within 30 minutes of hiring it, there are no extra ride charges. Extra ride charges apply if you keep a bike for longer than 30 minutes -between 30 minutes and 1 hour costs £1 and up to 1 hour 30 minutes costs £4. For more information and for sample itineraries, visit tfl.gov.uk/cycling

Taxis

Don't want to deal with the crowds? Take a ride in one of London's famous black taxis. You can hail them when the yellow TAXI sign is lit. The minimum fare is £2.40. Fares increase after 22:00. There is no charge for luggage or extra passengers. Remember to tip your driver.

Sightseeing in style

Hop On Hop Off Buses

On your free day, you may want to buy a pass for a hop on hop off sightseeing bus. There are many options to choose from, but the three main operators are **Original London Tour, Big Bus** and **Golden Tours Panorama**.

Golden Tours also offers a cheaper 3-hour ticket, where you do the whole circuit without getting off the bus.

These companies also offer **free river cruises and walking tours** with the purchase of the bus ticket. In most cases, they have to be used on the same day. The best deals can be found online, but you can also buy tickets at their locations. The Original London Visitor Centre is located at 17-19 Cockspur Street, Trafalgar Square.

You can buy Big Bus tickets directly on the buses. Golden Tours Visitor Centre is located at Fountain Square, 125 Buckingham Palace Road.

River cruises

There are many companies that offer river cruises, such as **City Cruises** and **Thames River Services**. City Cruises depart every 30 minutes from Westminster, London Eye, Tower and Greenwich Piers. Thames River Services can also be found at Westminster Pier. These companies offer sightseeing cruises, as well as lunch, tea and dinner cruises, speedboat cruises, and other specialty cruises. Specialty cruises usually have to be booked in advance.

Other Useful Information

Emergencies

Dial 999 for the police, the fire department (or fire brigade, in British English) and emergency medical services.

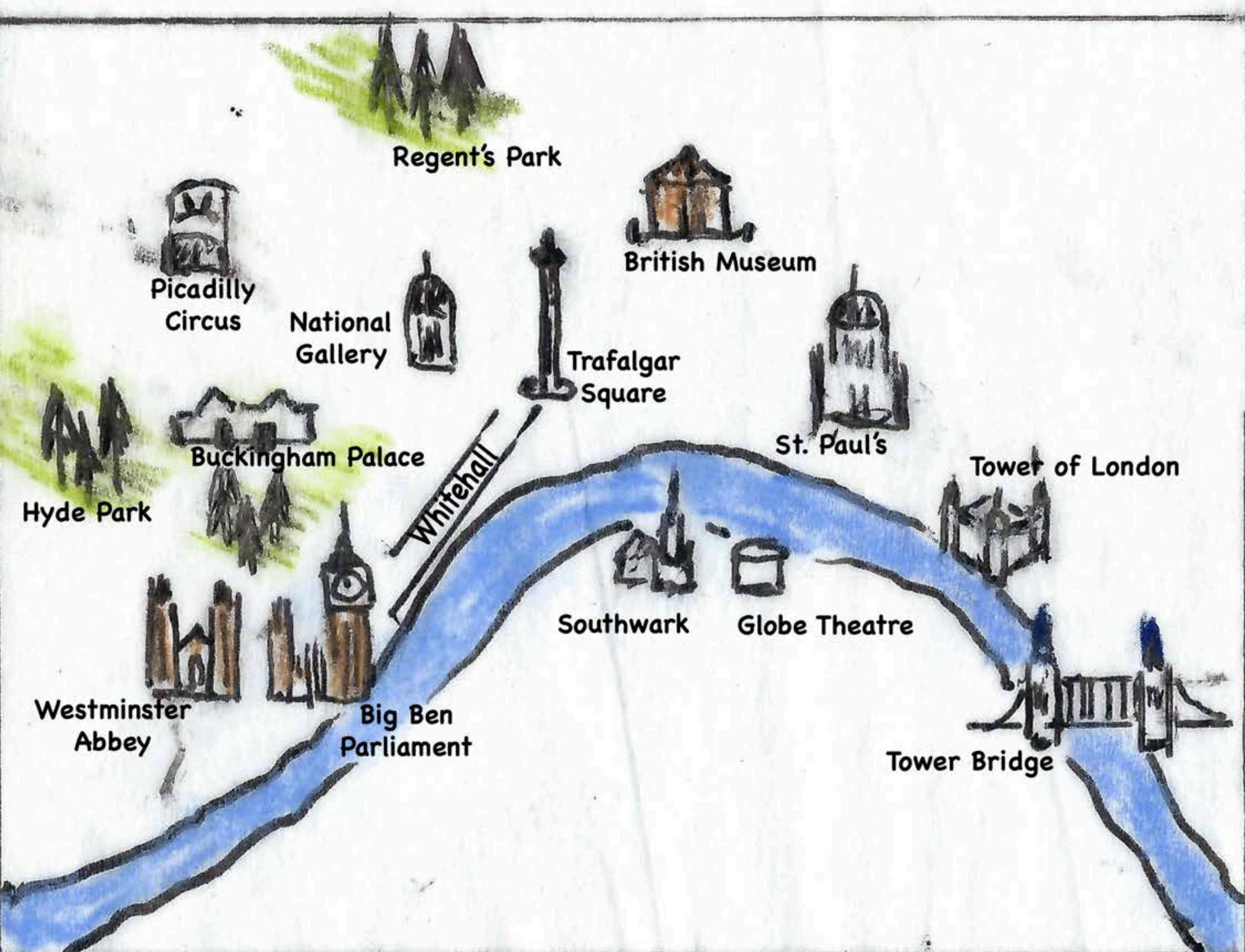
Tipping

Restaurants: it is customary to leave 10-15%. Some restaurants include a service charge, so check your bill first.

Taxis: it is polite to tip 10-15% of the taxi fare.

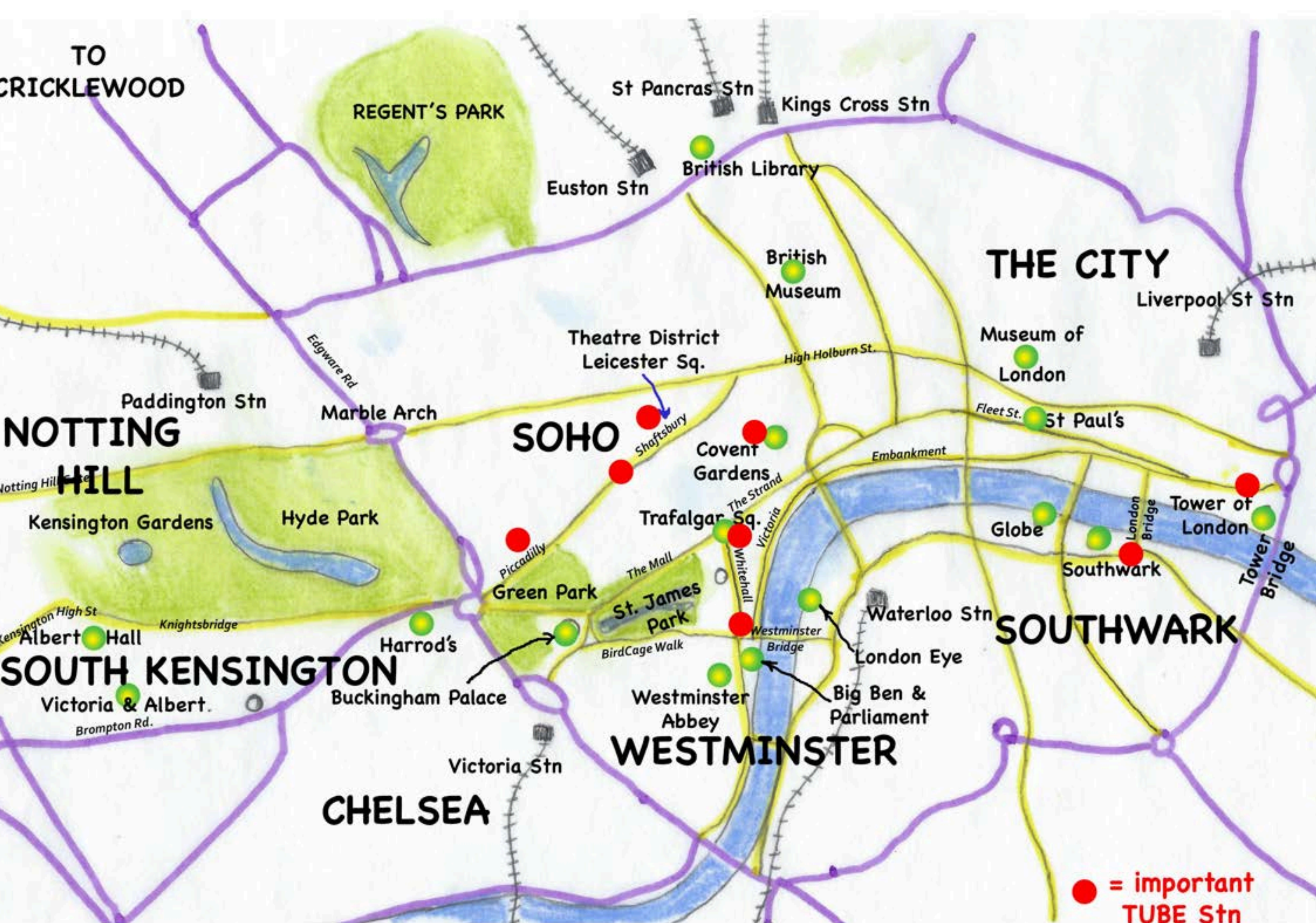
Bars and Pubs: people generally do not tip in pubs in London. You can choose to leave a tip.

London's Major Monuments

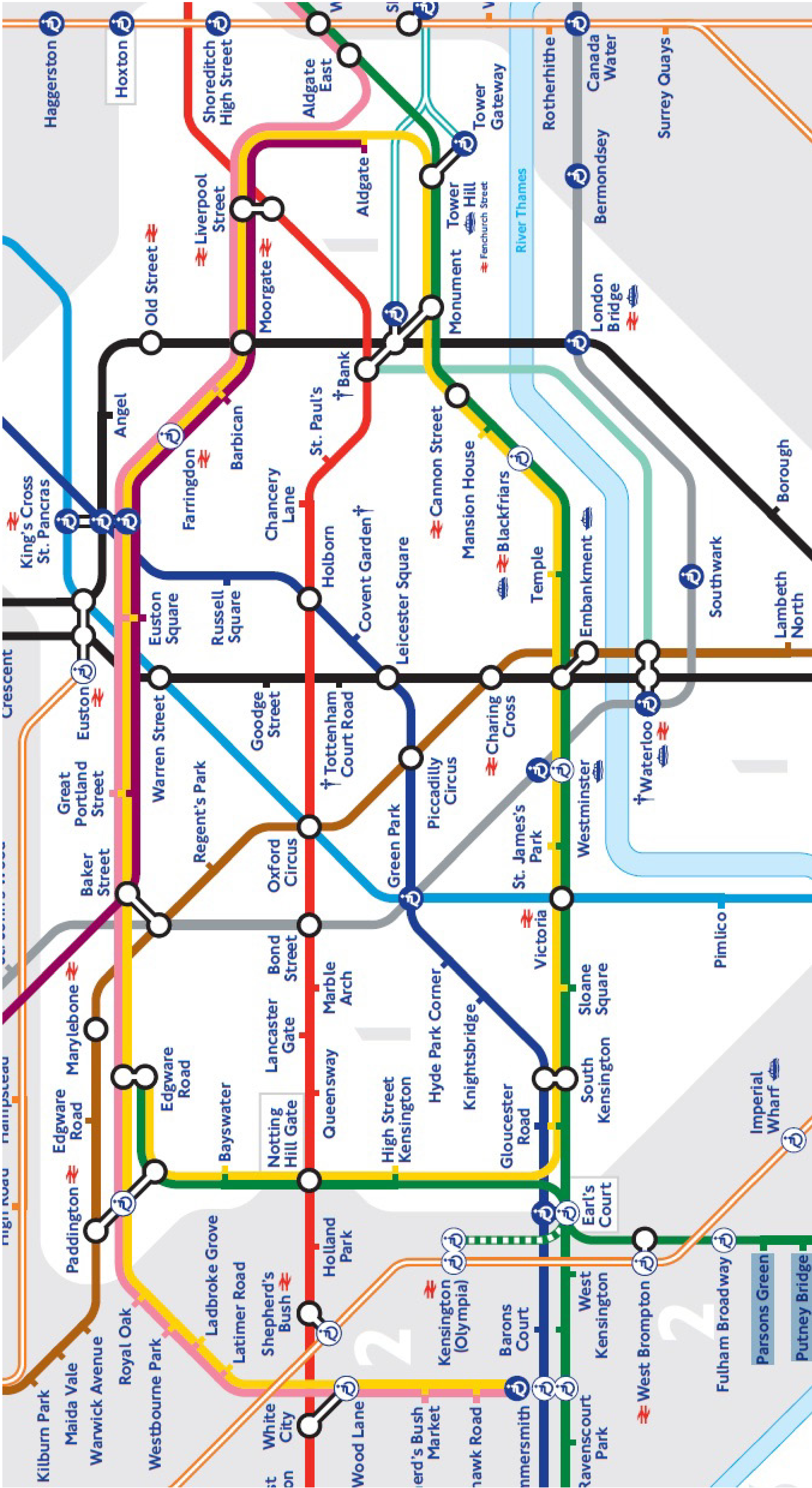


Maps

Map of London with Neighborhoods

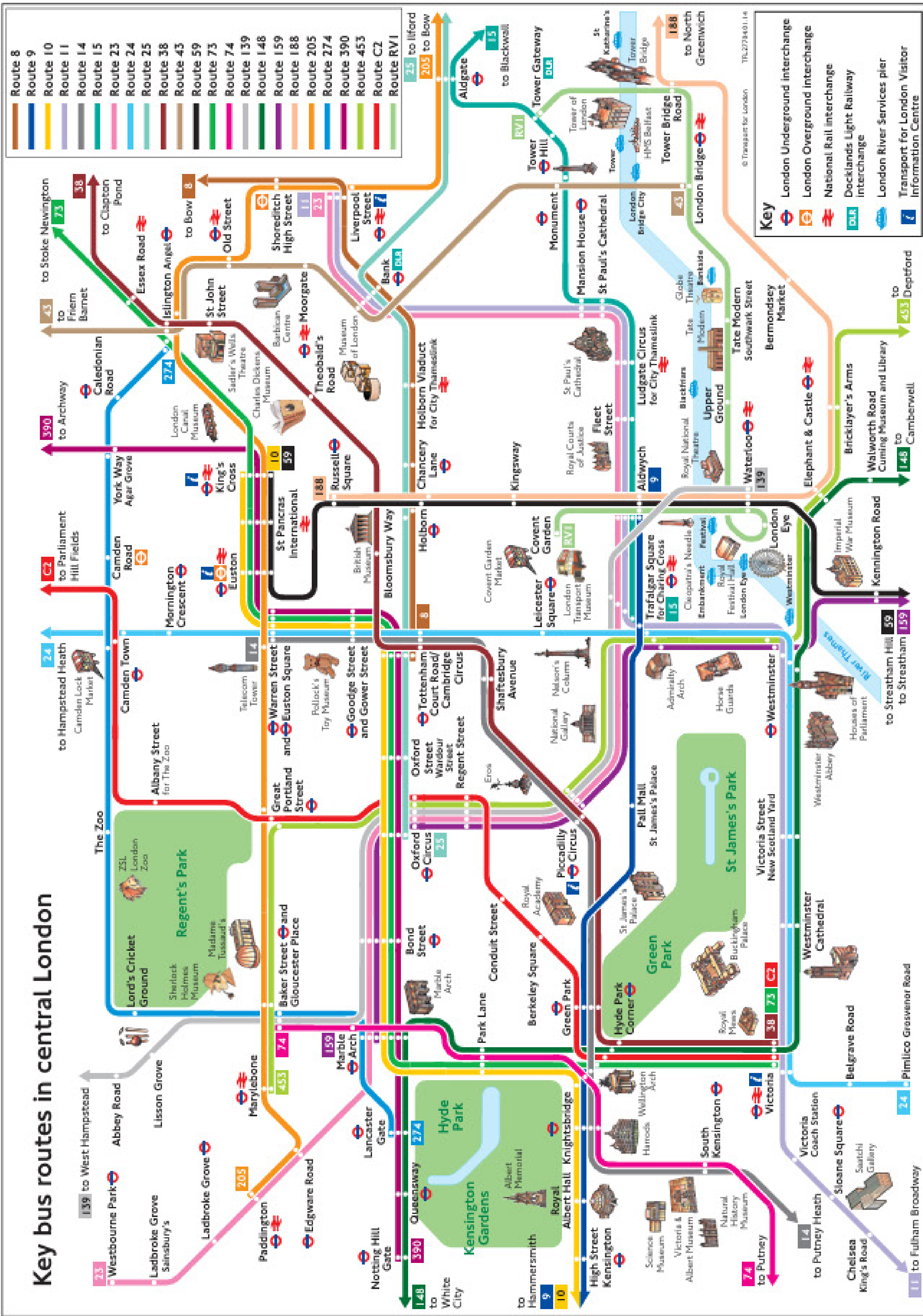


The Tube (Central London)



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Bus Routes (Central London)



Essential London Sights

Churches and Royal Sights

Westminster Abbey: Church and royal coronation site since 1066.

Hours: Mon-Fri 9:30-16:30. Wed until 19:00. Sat 9:30-14:30. Closed Sunday except for worship. *Free*

Westminster Abbey: Church and royal coronation site since 1066.

Hours: Mon-Fri 9:30-16:30. Wed until 19:00. Sat 9:30-14:30. Closed Sunday except for worship. *Free*

St. Paul's Cathedral: The cathedral of the Anglican Church. Evensong services daily. Hours: Mon-Sat 8:30-16:30. Closed Sunday except for worship. *Free*

Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace: Ceremony featuring brass bands, horse guards, and military regiments at the royal residence. Hours: Generally May-July daily at 11:00. August to April every other day.

<http://changing-guard.com/provisional-dates-buck-ingham-palace.html> *Free*

Horse Guards: 18th-century military headquarters for the Queen's cavalry with daily guard changing ceremony. Hours: Horse and guards on post 24/7. Changing of the Guard Mon-Sat 11:00. Sun 10:00. Free

Kensington Palace: Restored residence of monarchs such as Queen Victoria and William and Mary. Hours: Daily: 10:00-18:00. Only until 17:00 Nov-Feb.

Museums and Galleries

National Gallery: European paintings dating 1250-1900. Hours: Daily 10:00-18:00. Fri until 21:00. Free

British Museum: Great collection of historical artifacts. Hours: Daily 10:00-17:00. Fri until 20:30. Free

British Library: Important literary collection including the Magna Carta. Hours: Mon-Fri 9:30-18:00. Tue until 20:00. Sat 9:30-17:00. Sun 11:00-17:00. Free

Victoria and Albert Museum:

Decorative arts. Hours: Daily 10:00
17:45, Fri until 22:00. Free

National Portrait Gallery:

Paintings of historical Brits. Hours:
Daily
10:00-18:00, Thurs-Fri until 21:00.
First and second floors open
Mon at 11:00. Free

Imperial War Museum: Exhibits
dealing with 20th-century military
history. Hours: Daily 10:00-18:00.
Free

Tate Modern: Works by
20th-century artists. Hours: Daily
10:00-18:00. Fri-Sat until 22:00.
Free

Tate Britain: British paintings
dating 16th century through
modern times. Hours: Daily
10:00-18:00. Free

Churchill War Rooms:

Underground WWII headquarters.
Hours: Daily 9:30-18:00.

Essential London Sights

Tower of London: Castle, palace and prison. Crown jewels. Hours: March-October Tue-Sat 9:00-17:30. Sun-Mon 10:00-17:30. Nov-Feb Tue-Sat 9:00-16:30. Sun-Mon 10:00-16:30.

Houses of Parliament: Famous for Big Ben and the Houses of Lords and Commons. Hours: When Parliament is in session often open Mon-Thurs. Closed Fri-Sun and much of Aug-Sept. Guided tours offered year round on Sat and many days during Aug-Sept.

Trafalgar Square: The heart of London where Westminster, The City and the West End meet. Hours: open all the time. Free

Covent Gardens: Once a produce market, now a chic gathering place for food and drink, shops, and street entertainers. Hours: always open. Free

London Eye: Huge “Ferris” wheel. Hours: Daily Apr-Aug 10:00-21:00. Sept-Mar 10:00-20:30. Sometimes open later on the weekends.

Shakespeare's Globe: Reconstructed thatched-roof theatre. Hours: Theatre complex, museum, and actor-led tours generally daily 9:00-17:00. In summer, morning tours only.

Greenwich: Cutty Sark exhibit, Royal Observatory and other maritime sights. Prime Meridian. Hours: Most sights open everyday 10:00-17:00. Market closed on Monday.

Southwark Borough Market: London's renowned food market. Hours: Wed-Thurs 10:00-17:00. Fri 10:00-18:00. Sat 8:00-17:00. Mon-Tue open for lunch 10:00-17:00, but no market.

Shopping

The best places to shop in London are in the West End and on the South Bank. There are markets, boutiques, department stores, specialty shops, galleries and malls.

West End (p.54)

Chinatown – for an authentic Chinese shopping experience. Soho – for fashion and electronics, also Hamleys toyshop and the Liberty emporium.

Piccadilly – shopping malls, Burlington Arcade covered shopping area, Fortnum and Mason's, the Piccadilly Market

Covent Garden – shops galore! Neal Street, New Row, Central Market, Jubilee Market

South Bank (p.64)

Gabriel's Wharf for specialty stores, Southwark's Borough Market for food, Hay's Galleria for craft and market stalls and traditional shops.

South Kensington (p.60)

Don't miss out on a trip to Harrods, a British icon.

The City (p.61)

Leadenhall Market for fresh food, shops, pubs and restaurants.

London Theatre

I love London theatre! In fact I'd sometimes rather fly off to London for a couple of shows as opposed to visiting New York. If only it weren't for the jetlag!

There is something showing every night ranging from musicals, Shakespeare, comedies, dramas, old-school revivals, and off-the-beaten-path fringe shows.

Most all the big-name shows are played out in the commercial theatres of the West End. Most are centered in Soho between Piccadilly and Covent Gardens, especially along Shaftsbury Avenue. The old world ambiance of these theatres seem to make the show experience even better. You have lots of choice when choosing your seat but be prepared for less personal space than we have in modern theaters in the USA. The seats are narrow and the rows are close as well.

Theatres sell seats situated on several levels with higher prices for better seats. The terminology is a bit different in the UK, but the general idea is the same as at home. The Stalls are on the ground floor. Dress Circle refers to the first balcony. The Upper Circle is the second balcony.

The Balcony is the nosebleed section in the third balcony. Finally, the Slips are the cheapest seats on the fringes. Some slips may have restricted views of the stage.

You can find out what's playing where by the advertisements all over the Tube and posted bills in pedestrian areas. The free Official London Theatre Guide is updated weekly. You'll find it in hotels, box offices, London Tourist Offices, and online at <http://www.officiallondontheatre.co.uk>.

Most performances are presented nightly except Sunday. Often there are several matinees each week. A few family friendly shows run on Sunday, such as the Lion King and other kid-oriented musicals. Tickets range from £25 to £130 for the best seats at big-named shows. Matinees are usually less expensive with better seat availability.



Buying Tickets

I prefer to select and purchase my tickets once I'm in London. However, some may prefer to do it before their trip if time is limited or you want to snag a great seat at a popular show. If you want to purchase before arriving in London, I suggest visiting the theatre's online website and purchasing directly from them. Alternatively, call the theatre's box office directly. You'll pay with your credit card regardless of whether you book online or over the phone, so have it handy. There is usually a service charge of a few pounds. I'd avoid buying tickets from "middlemen" agencies which mark up the cost of the ticket for the "service" they offer.

If you buy your tickets in London, you have a couple of good options: the official TKTS booth at Leicester Square and the the-atre's box office. Avoid buying tickets from middleman vendors on the street! Some things that may affect where you buy your tickets are: your desire to see a particular show, seating choices and getting the cheapest seats.

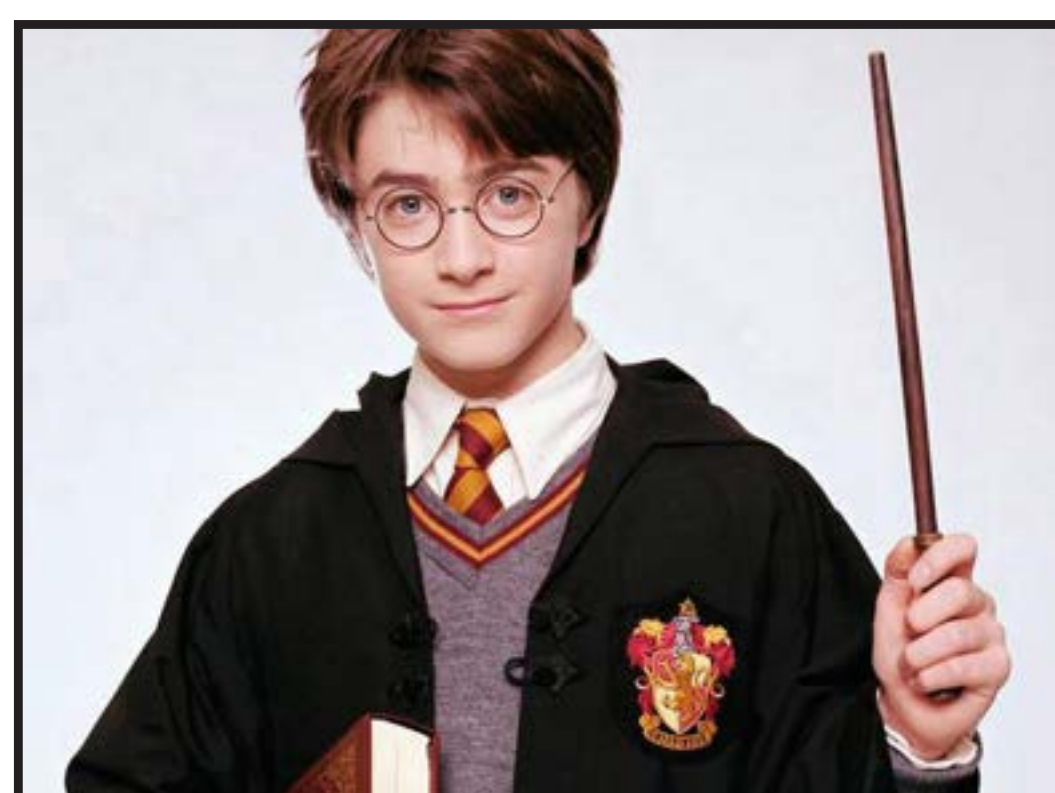
I usually head to the TKTS booth first to see what's available and then pick a show and seat within my budget. You can check their daily offerings online at [http:// www.tkts.co.uk](http://www.tkts.co.uk). The theatre box office usually has same-day discounted tickets as well, but it makes sense to stop at TKTS instead of running around to all the box offices to see what's on.

Finally, the TKTS booth does not have floor plans for each theatre and they do not sell the "absolute" cheapest tickets ... you'll have to go to the box office for that.

Visit these websites for comprehensive information for theatre in London: <http://londonthe-atretickets.org> and <http://time-out.com/london>.

Harry Potter Sights of London

Follow Harry and his friends across London and see how many spots you recognize from the films.



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King's Cross Station

This is where Harry and his friends catch the Hogwarts Express, which departs from Platform 9 ¾. Head towards the entrance of platforms 9, 10 and 11 on the west side of the station. You will see a trolley disappearing through a wall to the magical platform.

St Pancras International

Above ground you will see this station, with its Neo-Gothic façade, next door. You may recognize it from the scene where the Weasley's magical car takes off in Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets.

Piccadilly Circus

While you're visiting Piccadilly Circus, see if you recognize it from the scene in Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Pt 1 where Hermione, Harry and Ron almost get hit by a bus after fleeing the Death Eaters.

The Reptile House at the London Zoo in Regent's Park

This is where Harry first learns that he can communicate with

snakes in Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, which is known as Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone in England.

Millennium Bridge

As you enjoy your stroll over the Millennium Bridge, try not think about the opening scene in Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince...when it collapses.

Charing Cross Road

In the books, Diagon Alley is located on Charing Cross Road, but no scenes were filmed here. The road is known for its second-hand bookstores and shops and is very charming. It is located in Soho.

Leadenhall Market

In Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, this covered market served as Diagon Alley. Head down Bull's Head Passage to the optician's office, the entrance to the Leaky Cauldron. Leadenhall Market is in the City, north of the Monument to the Great Fire.

Australia House

This embassy building is where many of the scenes from Gringott's Bank were filmed in the first movie. It is located on the north bank, northeast of Waterloo Bridge.

Westminster Tube Station

In Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, this is one of the locations that Harry uses when traveling. The station was shut down for a whole day during filming. You will probably come through Westminster station at some point on your trip, since it's very centrally located.

Still not enough Harry Potter?

Take a trip to Warner Bros. Studios in Leavesden (northwest of London) to take the Warner Bros. Studio Tour London. The walking tour takes you behind the-scenes to get a firsthand look at sets, costumes and props from the movies. They will even share some of the secrets used by the special effects team. Since the books were still being written after filming began, no one knew what might be needed for future movies, so the collection is huge!!

Sets include the Great Hall, Dumbledore's office, Diagon Alley, Hagrid's hut, Ollivanders and more! Ride on a broomstick, enjoy a tankard of butterbeer or test your luck with a bag of Bertie Bott's Every Flavor Beans. Tickets are £33 for adults 16 and up, £25.50 for children (5-15).

British Museum

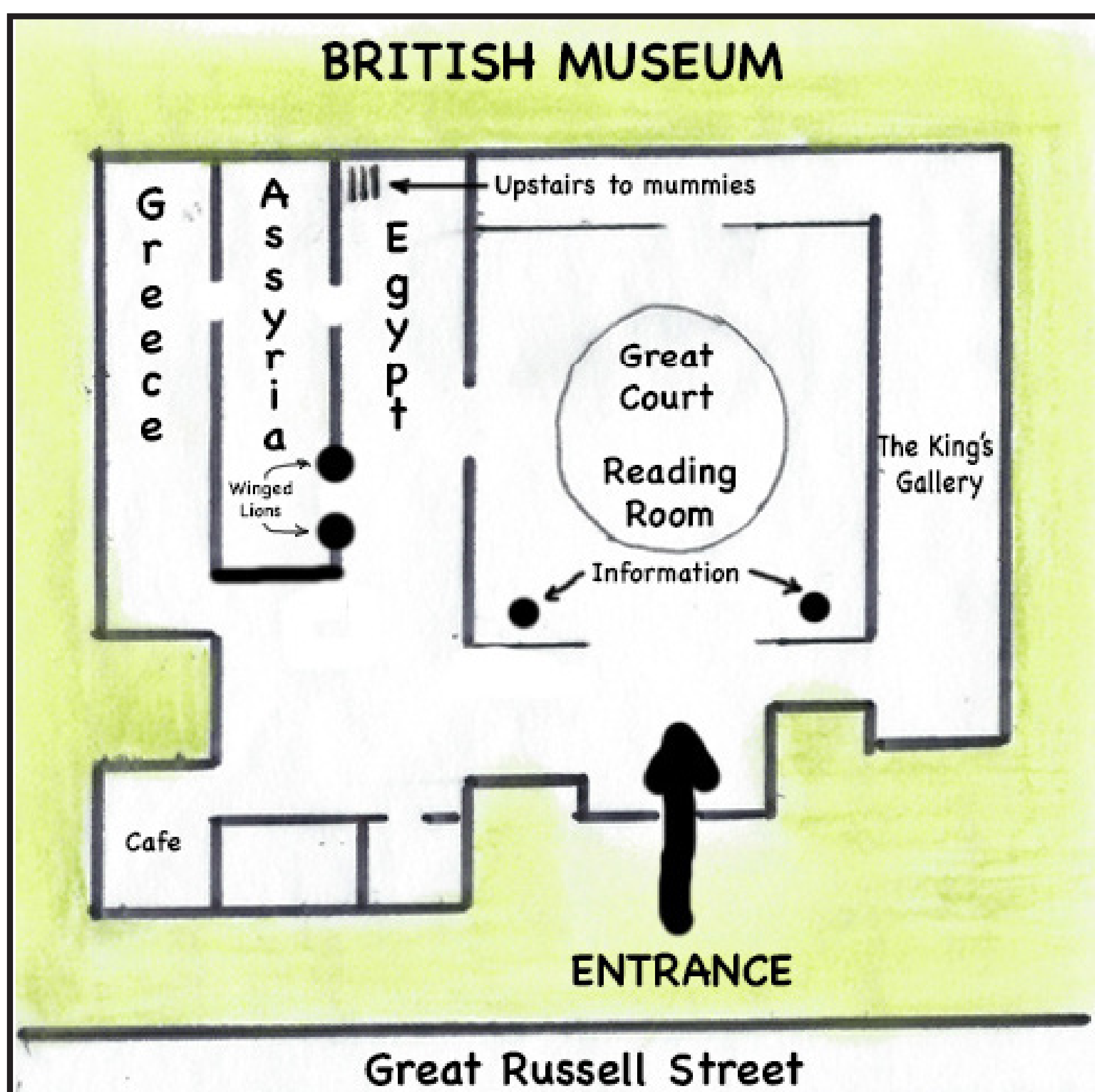
History

The British Museum was founded in 1753 and its collection spans over 2 million years of human history. It started with the physician, naturalist and collector Sir Hans Sloane. Over his lifetime he had collected more than 71,000 objects, but he wanted his collection remain intact after his death. So he bequeathed the whole collection to King George II for the nation in return for £20,000 for his heirs. In 1823 George IV donated his father's library (the King's Library) to the nation, which led to the construction of the quadrangular building. By 1857 the round Reading Room had also been constructed. When the book collection was moved to the British Library, the Queen Elizabeth II Great Court was built to fill the space. It spans 2 acres and is the largest covered public space in Europe. The renovated Reading Room stands at its center.

The Galleries

The galleries can be broken into themes. Using the entrance and the Great Court as a reference, the artifacts from

Ancient Egypt are on the upper level behind the Great Court. Egyptian sculpture is located just to the left of the Great Court on the ground floor. The **Ancient Greece and Rome** exhibits occupy much of the ground floor, the left side of the upper floor, and two rooms on the lower floor. Exhibits dedicated to **Asia** are spread out. China, South and Southeast Asia, and Korea are located on the ground floor beyond the Great Court. The rooms dedicated to Japan are on the upper floor. The exhibit of **Africa** is on the lower floor and **the Americas** exhibit is on the ground floor beyond the Great Court. The rooms dedicated to **Europe** are on the upper floor to the right of the Great Court. The **Middle East** exhibit spans several rooms: Assyria is on the ground floor in the rooms just behind the Egyptian sculptures, there is a room dedicated to the Islamic world beyond the Great Court on the ground floor and rooms exploring the ancient Middle East are on the upper floor beyond the Great Court.



Must-See Attractions

The Parthenon (Room 18, Ground floor) - The Parthenon was built in Athens as a temple dedicated to the goddess Athena. See sculptures that once decorated the outside of the building and pieces of architecture in this display.

The Rosetta Stone (Room 4, Ground floor) - This is one of the most famous objects in the museum. A decree passed by a council of priests was carved into the stone in three different languages, thus allowing Egyptologists to use the translations as a code to crack the hieroglyphs. **Lindow Man** (Room 50, Upper Floor) - In 1984, two men working in a peat bog stumbled

over the 2,000-year-old remains of Lindow Man. Due to the excellent conditions in the peat bog, his skin, hair and internal organs were remarkably well preserved. Evidence seems to suggest that he was killed in some kind of elaborate (and painful) ritual.

The Egyptian Mummies

(Rooms 61-63, Upper floor) - Death and the afterlife held particular significance for the ancient Egyptians. Objects on display include coffins, mummies, funerary masks, portraits and other items that used to be buried with the deceased.

The British Museum's Top 25

The British Museum also offers suggested itineraries on their website. Here is their list of the top 25 objects to see to get a feel for the variety of the museum's collection.



The information is presented with the room number, the name of the piece, a description and the audio guide number.

Ground Floor

1 **The Sloane astrolabe** – A mechanical map of the heavens 103

2 **Stone chopper from Tanzania** – The oldest object in the Museum 117

4 **The Rosetta Stone** – The key to the decipherment of hieroglyphs 123

4 **Colossal bust of Ramesses the Great** – A mighty pharaoh and a poet's inspiration 124

10 **Assyrian Lion Hunt reliefs** – An ancient king's triumph over nature 131

18 **Parthenon sculptures** – Iconic sculpture from ancient Greece 320

24 **Easter Island statue Hoa**

Hakananai'a – A colossal figure from a lost civilization 152

27 **Turquoise serpent** – Striking mosaics used by Aztec priests 173

33 **Group of Tang ceramic tomb figures** – Guardians of a Chinese general 178

33 **Cloisonné jar with dragons** – Made for a Ming dynasty emperor 179

33 **Jade cong** – 5,000-year-old mystery objects 191

34 Jade Terrapin from Allahabad – A majestic sculpture from India's Mughal court 197

Upper Floors

39 Automated model of a ship – An extravagant toy and technological marvel 214

40 The Lewis Chessmen – The most famous chess set in the world 218

41 The Sutton Hoo ship burial – Burial treasures of a Saxon warrior 225

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50 Basse Yutz flagons – Among the finest survivals of Early Celtic art 241

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Saint Paul's Cathedral

Five different churches have stood at this site, dating back to 604 AD. The medieval cathedral was completely destroyed in 1666 during the Great Fire of London. The fire burned so hot that it even melted the metal framework. The architect Sir Christopher Wren was tasked with rebuilding the church. His first design was deemed too modest. In his second design he wanted to build the cathedral in the shape of a Greek cross, but that proposal was rejected in favor of the conventional Latin cross. Wren's third design, with a larger nave and smaller dome was accepted, though he later modified it to more resemble his second proposal. It took 35 years to build this magnificent Baroque cathedral, which was finally completed in 1710.

The Exterior

The West Front - the west front is dominated by a triangular

relief depicting the Conversion of St. Paul. Above the relief is a statue of St. Paul himself, flanked by other apostles and the four evangelists.

The West Towers - the two western towers are topped with a pineapple—symbol of peace, prosperity and hospitality. The southwest tower had three clock faces installed in 1893. The tower houses two bells, one of which is the largest bell ever cast in the UK.

The South Churchyard - at the western end of the south churchyard you can see the floor plan of the medieval cathedral that burned down with the present cathedral superimposed on top.

St. Paul's Cross - in the northeast churchyard there is a plaque that marks the location of St. Paul's cross, a popular center for discussion. During the Reformation, William Tyndale's New Testament was burned here because it was written in English. The column topped by a gilded statue of St. Paul commemorates the public preaching of the Christian faith in this location.

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The Interior

The Nave - when you enter St. Paul's you are greeted by a breathtaking view down the full length of the nave. On the west end of the nave are the Great West Doors, which stand nearly 30 feet tall and are used for the arrival of special visitors, like the Queen and the Lord Mayor of London.

Wellington's Monument – a statue of Arthur, Duke of Wellington, sits in an arch between the nave and the north aisle. The monument was not completed until over 50 years after his death. It was moved to a safe location during World War II.

The South Transept – as you walk toward the altar you will come to

the short sides of the cross. These are the transepts. The south transept is to your right. There is a monument to Britain's great naval hero, Horatio Nelson, who died at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805.

The North Transept – William Holman Hunt's painting *The Light of the World* forms and altarpiece in one of the chapels in the north transept. It depicts Christ knocking on a door that only opens from the inside.

The Choir - this was the first part of St. Paul's to be built and consecrated. The choir stalls on both sides feature carvings by Grinling Gibbons, who also did work for many royal palaces and great houses. The Grand Organ is the third largest organ in the UK; it has 7,189 pipes, 5 keyboards and 138 organ stops. An effigy of John Donne is located in the south choir aisle. It is one of the few monuments to survive the Great Fire; you can still see scorch marks on its base.

The High Altar - the present altar dates from 1958 and is made of marble and carved and gilded oak. The canopy's design is based on a sketch by Christopher Wren, but was never built during his time. The previous Victorian marble altar and screen were damaged by a bomb strike in World War II that destroyed a large part of the east end of the Cathedral.



The Apse - this area had to be rebuilt after World War II, and the new Chapel was named the American Memorial Chapel to commemorate the 28,000 Americans stationed in the UK during World War II. The images in the chapel and on the stained-glass windows depict flora and fauna from North America.

The Dome - the dome of St. Paul's is the second largest Cathedral dome in the world, measuring 364 feet high and weighing approximately 65,000 tons. The dome is actually a series of three domes which allows the outer dome to be so large. Between the outer dome and the inner dome is a brick cone that provides strength and support.

The Whispering Gallery - this gallery runs around the interior of the dome. Due to its construction and unusual acoustics, something whispered against the wall on one side can be heard on the opposite side. The gallery is nearly 100 feet above the cathedral floor, and you must climb 257 steps to get here.

The Stone Gallery - this gallery encircles the outside of the dome. It is 170 feet from the cathedral floor and it takes 376 steps to get here.

The Golden Gallery - this is the smallest of the galleries and runs along the highest point of the outer dome—279 feet above the cathedral floor. You have to climb 528 steps to get to this gallery, but it's well worth the effort.

There are superb panoramic views of London (keep in mind that the beautiful dome you are now standing on will not be in your views).

Ball and Lantern – the ball and lantern top the dome. The lantern weighs 850 tons and the ball and cross stand 23 feet high and weigh 7 tons. The original ball and cross were replaced in 1821.

The Crypt

Nelson's Tomb - after his death during the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805, Lord Nelson was given a state funeral and buried in St. Paul's Cathedral. He was laid in a coffin made from a French ship that he defeated in battle. The marble sarcophagus on his tomb was originally meant for Cardinal Wolsey, Lord Chancellor during the reign of Henry VIII, but Wolsey fell out of favor and the sarcophagus remained unused.

Wellington's Tomb - Wellington's simple casket is made of Cornish granite. The banners hanging around his tomb were made for his funeral procession.

Sir Christopher Wren's Tomb

Wren's tomb is marked by a simple stone and is surrounded by memorials to his family, to the Masons and to other colleagues. The Latin epitaph on his tomb translates, "Reader, if you seek his monument, look around you." In the same section of the crypt there are many tombs and memorials to artists, scientists and musicians, including Alexander Fleming (the scientist who discovered penicillin), Arthur Sullivan (the composer —of Gilbert and Sullivan), and Henry Moore (the sculptor).

Tower of London

History of the Tower through the British Monarchs

In 1066, when **Edward the Confessor** died without an heir, **William, Duke of Normandy**, claimed that he had been promised the throne. He invaded and defeated the English at the Battle of Hastings (hence the name William the Conqueror). Instead of sacking London, he laid waste to the surrounding countryside, and the city's leaders eventually turned London over to him. In the early days of his reign,

he set to building defenses for the city. The White Tower, the oldest part of the Tower of London, was built at this time. Nothing like it had ever been seen in England before. The building was 118 feet by 116 feet, and it was 90 feet tall. It dominated the skyline for miles. The tower's main purpose was to function as a fortress stronghold. As the need arose, the tower's fortifications were updated and expanded.

During **Henry III's** reign, in 1238, rebellious barons caused him to seek refuge in the tower. He realized that the defenses were weak and began major reinforcements, building a massive curtain wall on three sides and adding nine new towers. The work was completed under **Edward I**, his son. **Richard II** often had to flee to the tower to escape his discontented people as well. In 1399 he was forced to hand over his crown to his cousin Henry IV and remain in the tower. Henry's crown passed down the family line, but the struggle between the royal houses of Lancaster and York eventually led to the War of the Roses. In 1460, Yorkist forces sieged the tower and

Henry VI's men were forced to surrender. Henry's rival, King Edward IV, was crowned, and the deposed Henry went on the run. He was captured five years later and taken back to the tower as a traitor. Henry was eventually released by his supporters, briefly reinstated as king, overthrown once more and sent back to the tower. He died there under mysterious circumstances in 1471. At the time many believed he was stabbed while praying in the Wakefield Tower.

In 1483, when Edward IV died, his 12-year-old son was to become king. Since he was so young, his uncle Richard became Protector of the Realm. While preparations were being made for the coronation, the boy, **King Edward V**, and his younger brother were taken to the tower to stay in the royal quarters. The coronation procession was supposed to set out from the tower and proceed to Westminster Abbey. However, the two young princes "mysteriously disappeared" and Richard himself was crowned **King Richard III**. In 1670, the skeletons belonging to two boys of about 10 and 12 were discovered nearby.

Richard III's death marked the end of the York dynasty and the rise to power of the **Tudors**, the most famous of whom was **Henry VIII**. He is responsible for building the royal residential buildings at the tower. He also had two of his wives executed here. After his death, his son, **Edward VI**, reigned for only a short time. Upon Edward's death, there was some serious politicking going on. **Lady Jane Grey's** father had convinced Edward to declare his half-sister Mary illegitimate and to pass the crown to his daughter. However, Mary had widespread support and poor Jane's rule only lasted nine days. She was imprisoned in the tower and eventually executed on the queen's orders. When **Mary I** gained the crown she reinstated Catholicism. Mary also imprisoned her protestant half-sister, Princess Elizabeth, in the tower but did not have enough evidence for an execution. **Elizabeth I**, who inherited the crown when Mary died, imprisoned her fair share of people in the tower as well. The cells were full to bursting under the Tudor reign.

During the civil war (1642-1649) between the king and Parliament, **Charles I**

lost the tower to the Parliamentarians. After his execution, they destroyed the Crown Jewels.

Oliver Cromwell, leader of the parliamentarians, installed the first permanent garrison at the tower. In 1660, the monarchy was restored and **Charles II** was put on the throne. At this point the tower's use as a state prison declined and it was taken over with munitions stores and offices.

Over the next two centuries many offices, storerooms and barracks moved into the tower. In the 1850s, thanks to the fascination at the time with England's turbulent history, the fortress was restored to a more "medieval" style. The tower grew in popularity as a tourist attraction, and by 1901 over half a million people visited the tower each year.

During World War I, several spies were held at the tower and some were executed. The last execution took place in 1941. The tower was considerably damaged during the bombings of World War II, and a number of the buildings were destroyed.

Today, the tower is a World Heritage Site and attracts 2 million tourists a year.

Highlights of the Tower

Beauchamp Tower - the walls of this tower are covered in graffiti left by Tudor prisoners.

High-ranking prisoners were held here, often accompanied by their entourage of servants. The Bloody Tower - this is where the Little Princes were murdered, and that is how the tower got its name. The upper chamber today has a display about the Princes' disappearance. The lower chamber is furnished as it might have appeared during Sir Walter Raleigh's imprisonment. Two archbishops of Canterbury were also held in this tower.

The Execution Site - the Tower Green was the execution site for favored prisoners. Here they received a private execution, away from the blood-thirsty crowds. Ten people were executed here, including three English queens. Henry VIII's two wives: Anne Boleyn in 1536 and Catherine Howard in 1542. Lady Jane Grey, after her nine days as queen, was executed in 1554 at the age of 16.

Tower of London

All three queens were treated with respect. An expert swordsman was even brought over from France for Anne Boleyn's execution. Seven other people died here and there is a memorial to commemorate their deaths. William, Lord Hastings, was executed in 1483 by the Protector, Richard, Duke of Gloucester. Jane Boleyn, sister-in-law to Anne Boleyn, was executed with Catherine Howard. Margaret Pole, Countess of Salisbury was also executed by order of Henry VIII and was hacked to death by a blundering executioner. Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, who had been one of Elizabeth I's favorites before falling from grace and being convicted of treason. Three members of the Black Watch Regiment were shot for mutiny in 1743.

Traitors' Gate - the infamous entrance was used for prisoners brought from trial in Westminster Hall. Elizabeth I is rumored to have entered from here as well.



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The White Tower - this is the oldest medieval building at the tower and was built by William the Conqueror. It was designed to serve as a fortress and provide the king with accommodations for his occasional use. During the 14th to the 19th centuries it mainly served as a military storehouse. John the Good, a French king, was imprisoned here in 1360. Charles, Duke of Orleans, was captured at the Battle of Agincourt and imprisoned here in 1415.

Chapel of St. John - the Chapel is at the heart of the royal apartments in the original construction of the White Tower and is one of the best-preserved interiors. It is a stunning example of Anglo-Norman church architecture, but was most likely brightly painted at the time. It was later embellished with stained-glass windows and paintings. It is still a royal chapel today.

The Jewel House - as mentioned above, the original Crown Jewels were destroyed by the Parliamentarians in the 17th century. Very few survived—only those that were hidden by members

of the court or sold instead of melted down. When the monarchy was restored in 1661, Charles II had a new set of Crown Jewels made. In 1671, Thomas Blood almost succeeded in stealing the Crown Jewels. He had befriended the Keeper of the Regalia. He returned to the tower in the evening with three fellow conspirators, knocked the Keeper unconscious and grabbed the Jewels. The Keeper's son arrived home unexpectedly and raised the alarm. If it hadn't been for his early arrival, the heist would have been successful. The Crown Jewels were almost destroyed in a fire in 1841, but the City policemen were able to save them, though it made for a strange sight to see policemen walking out of the tower with armloads of royal jewels. There are many ighlights in the collection. The **Coronation Spoon** is over 800 years old (in 1649 it was sold instead of being destroyed). The **Sovereign Scepter with Cross** is topped by the enormous 530.2 carat Cullinan I diamond, or Great Star of Africa, which was added in 1910. It is the largest colorless diamond in the world.

Saint Edward's Crown is worn at the moment that the monarch is crowned in Westminster Abbey. It is named after the medieval Saint-King, Edward the Confessor, and was most recently used at the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.

The Imperial State Crown is worn by the queen at each State Opening of Parliament. It is one of the youngest crowns in the collection (1997) but it holds a number of much older gems. It had to be remade when the previous frame weakened under the weight of the gemstones. The collection is still regularly used by the queen, so you may see "in use" signs in some of the cases.

Animals at the Tower

Legend has it that if the six resident **Ravens** ever leave the fortress, the kingdom will fall. Charles II was the first to insist that the ravens be protected. Although they have one wing trimmed, some ravens do go AWOL and others have been fired. There are currently seven ravens at the tower (they keep a spare).

Their lodgings are next to the Wakefield Tower. They are cared for by the Raven Master and are fed about a quarter pound of raw meat a day. Don't try to feed them yourself; they bite. In the early 1200s, King John founded the **Royal Menagerie**, and animals lived at the tower for over 600 years, including the exotic animals that were given to the Sovereign as gifts. Animals ranged from lions, polar bears, elephants, tigers, kangaroos and ostriches. The Royal Menagerie was eventually moved to the site of the London Zoo in Regent's Park. There is currently a **Royal Beasts Exhibition** at the tower.

The Yeomen Warders

They are a detachment of the "Yeomen of the Guard" and have formed the Royal Bodyguard since at least 1509. They are nicknamed the "Beefeaters," most likely because, as the royal bodyguards, they could eat as much beef as they wanted from the king's table. Yeoman Warders are required to have served in the armed forces with an honorable record for at least 22 years. They will happily answer questions

about the tower or lead you on a tour.

Torture at the Tower

There is an exhibit about prisoners and torture at the tower in the bottom of Wakefield Tower. Here you can see replicas of three terrifying instruments of torture: the manacles, the rack and the scavenger's daughter (which compressed or contorted the person and crushed the body like a nutcracker).

The Fusilier Museum

The museum is housed in a building that was originally built as the Army Officers' Quarters. The museum tells the story of the British Infantry Regiment, from its formation at the tower in 1685 to present day.

Westminster Abbey

The first abbey on this site dates back as early as the 10th century, but the current French-influenced Gothic structure was begun in 1245 on orders from Henry III. When Henry VIII split from the Catholic Church after he divorced Catherine of Aragon, many religious structures in England were dissolved, and he stole their riches to finance his foreign policy.

Because of Westminster Abbey's tradition of being the site of the coronation of kings, it remained untouched. The abbey has been the setting for every Coronation since 1066 and for numerous other royal occasions, including 16 royal weddings.

The Interior

The North Transept - the north transept became known as statesman's aisle after the burial of Prime Minister William Pitt in 1778. The stained glass in the north rose window dates to the early 18th century but was altered in the 19th century. The three small chapels on the eastern side of the transept contain interesting monuments. For example, the monument to Lady Elizabeth Nightingale shows a skeletal figure of Death emerging from the cavern to aim his dart at the dying woman. The upper **Islip Chapel** is dedicated to the memory of the UK nurses who died in World War II. There are many Elizabethan monuments in **St. John the Baptist's Chapel** and **St. Paul's Chapel**. There is a large memorial to General James Wolfe in the **north ambulatory**.

The Nave - it took nearly 150 years to build the nave that you see today. The roof is 101 feet tall, the highest in England. This was made possible by attaching flying buttresses on the exterior of the building. The choir screen includes a monument to Sir Isaac Newton, and this area is often referred to as Scientists' Corner. Charles Darwin is buried in the north aisle of the nave, not far from Sir Isaac Newton. David Livingstone, the famous Scottish missionary and explorer, died in Africa but his body was brought back and buried in the center of the nave. You will also find a statue dedicated to Martin Luther King, Jr. in this area.

The West Window - this stained glass window dates from 1735. Just below the window is the **Grave of the Unknown Warrior**, which commemorates the many thousands killed in World War I. The Waterford crystal chandeliers were a gift from the Guinness family to celebrate the abbey's 900th anniversary in 1965.

London Destination Guide continues in Part 2

This guide has been prepared for you by:
David McGuffin's Exploring Europe

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