

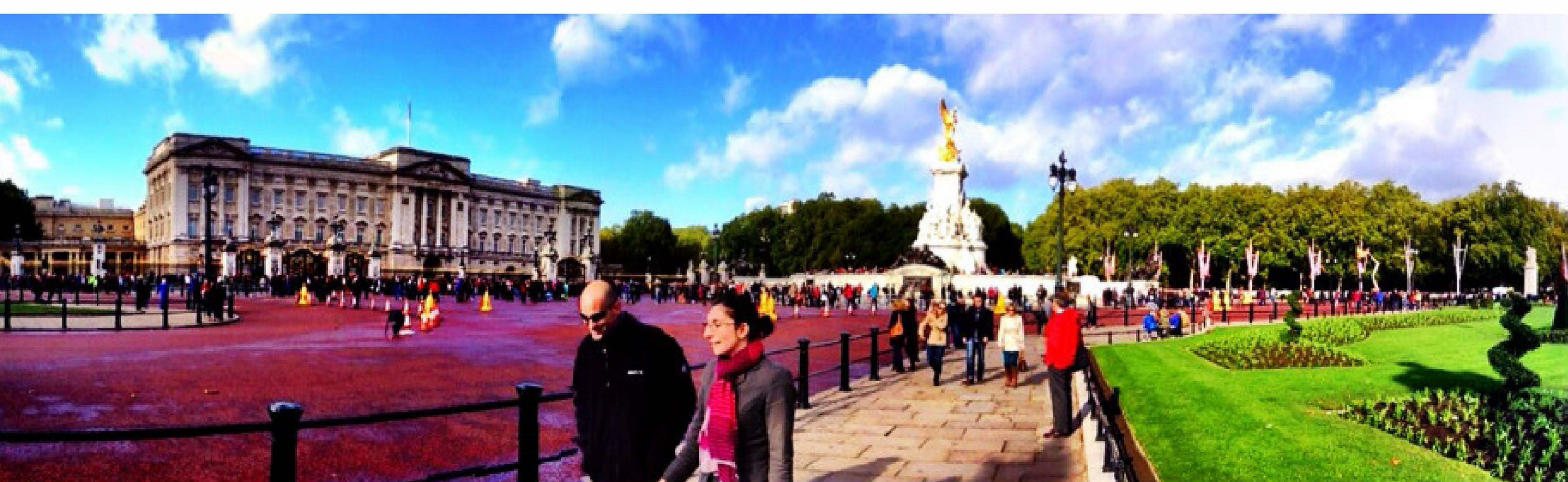


David McGuffin's **EXPLORING EUROPE**



LONDON

Destination Guide Part 2



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The Choir - the choir was originally the part of the abbey where the monks worshiped, but the 13th-century structure has been removed. 22 boys and 12 Lay Vicars (men who sing in the choir) sing the daily services. The black and white marble floor was given to the abbey as a gift in 1677.

The High Altar - the high altar stands in the Sanctuary, the heart of the abbey. The altar was designed in 1867. There is a Last Supper mosaic by Antonio Salviati. Four large statues of Moses, St. Peter, St. Paul and King David flank the altar and the doors leading into Saint Edward's Chapel behind the screen. In front of the altar there is a marble pavement dating from 1268. It is a Cosmati design, named after the Italian family who developed the technique of inlaying small pieces of marble to create intricate designs. To the south of the altar are the seats for the priests, with two paintings of kings. The 15th century altarpiece is placed above the tomb of Anne of Cleves. To the north of the altar are three medieval tombs.



Saint Edward's Chapel - the chapel containing the shrine of Saint Edward the Confessor is east of the Sanctuary at the heart of the abbey. The shrine that you see today is a shadow of the original. It was decorated with gold images of kings and saints. It had a stone base, a gold feretory, and a canopy. At the Reformation, the shrine was dismantled and stored by the monks, and the Confessor's body was buried in another part of the abbey. During the reign of Mary I the shrine was rebuilt. The marble base was reassembled, but not much care was taken to match the carvings and designs.

Without the feretory, the coffin was placed in a hollow area in the top part of the stone base. The wooden canopy has been restored and repainted, but the feretory has not been replaced. The shrine's base is worn by the knees of pilgrims who have come here to pray for a cure. To the east, under his chantry chapel, lies Henry V. There are two small tombs to Margaret, the daughter of Edward IV, and Elizabeth, the daughter of Henry VII. A brass on the floor covers the grave of John of Waltham, Bishop of Salisbury. Around the shrine to Edward the Confessor are the tombs of Henry III, Edward I, Eleanor of Castile, Edward III, Philippa of Castile, Richard II and Queen Anne of Bohemia, his wife.

The Lady Chapel - the Lady Chapel was begun in 1503 and commissioned by Henry VII. Notice the fan-vaulted roof with its carved pendants. There are 95 statues of saints around the walls. Behind the altar is the tomb of Henry VII and his queen, Elizabeth of York. James I is also buried in the vaults beneath the monument. Other famous monarchs who are buried here include Elizabeth I, Mary I and Mary, Queen of Scots.

When Elizabeth I died in 1603 her body was brought by barge to Whitehall Palace, where thousands of people turned out to see her funeral procession to the abbey. The coffin was covered in velvet and a colored wooden funeral effigy lay on top of the coffin. Her body was encased in lead within the coffin and first buried in her grandfather's vault, King Henry VII. In 1606 her coffin was moved to the north aisle of Henry VII's Chapel and laid on top of the coffin of her half-sister, Mary I, where her successor, King James I, erected a monument for her. The effigy resembles portraits of the queen in old age. Many elements of the monument were replaced in the 20th century, having been stolen long before. These include the gilded collar, crown, orb and scepter. **Mary I** was buried in 1558 in Henry VII's Lady Chapel. The wooden effigy used at her funeral still exists but only the head is displayed in the abbey museum. Elizabeth I's coffin was later placed on top of hers but the monument that James I built only has an effigy of Elizabeth I. Mary I is mentioned in one of the inscriptions,

which says “partners both in throne and grave, here rest we two sisters, Elizabeth and Mary, in the hope of the resurrection.” The remains of **Mary, Queen of Scots** were brought to Westminster Abbey in 1612 by her son, James I. He erected a magnificent marble tomb for her with a white marble effigy under an elaborate canopy. She wears a close-fitting coif, a laced ruff, and a long mantle fastened by a brooch. A crowned Scottish lion stands at her feet. The following monarchs are also located in the chapel, but there is no room for a monument, so none were erected for them: Charles II (a wax effigy of him stood at his grave in place of a monument. It is now in the museum), William III, Mary II and Queen Anne. Their graves are simply marked with small stones. George II was buried in the vaults under the center aisle of the chapel that he had newly constructed for his first wife’s burial. The sides of the two coffins were removed, as per his request, so that their dust could mingle after death. These graves are also only marked by

small stones. He was the last monarch to be buried in the abbey; all succeeding sovereigns were buried at Windsor. **The Royal Air Force Chapel** is in the east end. The stained-glass window depicts the badges of the fighter squadrons that took part in the Battle of Britain in 1940. The stained glass in this room mostly dates from the 21st century. The west window contains the coat of arms of the donors who contributed either work or money to the abbey's restoration project from 1973 to 1995.

South Transept - the south transept is lit by a large rose window with glass dating from 1902. Below it in the angles above the right and left arches are two fine medieval carvings depicting censing angels. There are also two late 13th-century wall paintings which were uncovered in 1936. They depict Christ showing his wounds to Doubting Thomas and Saint Christopher.

Poets' Corner - this area was not originally designated as the burial place of writers, playwrights and poets.

The first poet to be buried here, Geoffrey Chaucer, was buried in Westminster Abbey because he had been Clerk of Works to the Palace of Westminster, and not because he had written the Canterbury Tales. As English literature began to flourish in the 16th century, a more magnificent tomb was erected to Chaucer, and Edmund Spenser was laid to rest nearby. Thus the Poets' Corner was started. People are not always buried in the abbey immediately following their deaths. Lord Byron, for example, had a scandalous lifestyle and, though he died in 1824 and his poetry was very popular, he was only given a memorial in 1969. Shakespeare had to wait over 100 years after his death for his monument to appear in Poets' Corner. Writers who are buried here include Lord Tennyson, Robert Browning, Charles Dickens and Rudyard Kipling. However, not all the people buried in Poets' Corner are writers. You will also see the grave and monument of the famous composer George Frederick Handel, and the grave of Laurence Olivier.

The Cloisters - the cloisters were the busiest part of the monastery. They were used by the monks for meditation and exercise. Each of the four cloisters is approximately 100 feet in length.

Chapter House is in the east cloister and was the place where the monastery's day-to-day business was discussed. It is also where the Parliament met until they moved to the Palace of Westminster. This is a beautiful octagonal room filled with stained-glass windows depicting the abbey's history. The tile floor dates to the 13th century. **Pyx Chamber** used to be part of the east cloister, but it was walled off from the rest of the room at some point. It was probably used as a treasury; however, it is best known as the home of the wooden boxes called Pyxes, where samples of the coinage of the realm were kept to await the "Trial of the Pyx." This demonstration was meant to show that the coinage was pure. Sample coins would be melted down and their silver content measured. The trial still takes place today in Goldsmiths' Hall in the City of London.

St. George's Chapel and the Coronation Chair - the coronation chair was recently restored and is now located in St. George's Chapel. The Coronation Chair was made for King Edward I to enclose the famous **Stone of Scone**. There are many traditions and stories surrounding the stone. One says that it is the stone upon which Jacob rested his head at Bethel. Regardless of the stone's background, it is clear that the Scottish people venerated it for quite some time. All Scottish kings were crowned upon the stone. Supposedly, the following words were once engraved on the stone "If Fates go right, where'er the stone is found / the Scots shall monarchs of that realm be crowned." This prophecy obviously came true when King James VI of Scotland was crowned King James I of England in 1603. The stone weighs 336 pounds and is composed of sandstone. Scottish Nationalists stole the stone in 1950 but it was recovered in 1951. It was returned to the chair once precautions had been taken to make sure it would be safe. However, in 1996 the Prime Minister announced that the Stone of Scone would be returned to Scotland.

Parks and Museums

Representatives of Historic Scotland came to remove the stone and take it back to Edinburgh.



London's Parks

Hyde Park (350 acres)

Hyde Manor was part of the lands of Westminster Abbey that were seized by Henry VIII when he dissolved the church in 1536. Charles I opened it to the public in the early 17th century, and it soon became one of the city's most fashionable public spaces. In 1665, during the Great Plague, many citizens fled the City to camp in the park. William III moved his court to Kensington Palace, but he found that his walk to St. James's was very dangerous so he had 300 oil lamps installed.

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This was the first artificially-lit highway in England. The street later came to be called Rotten Row, not for any sinister reason, but as a corruption of the French for King's Road (Route de Roi). The park was the location of the Great Exhibition in 1851.

Attractions in the park include the **Serpentine**, an artificial lake that is used for boating and swimming; **Rotten Row**, used today for horse riding; and **Speaker's Corner** in the northeast corner of the park. Since 1872, people have had the right to address the public here on any topic they wish. There are several memorials in the park; the most notable is the **Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain**.

Kensington Gardens (242 acres)

The gardens are connected to Hyde Park and were the former grounds of Kensington Palace. Attractions include the Albert Memorial (p.60) and the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Playground for children, where children can play on a huge wooden pirate ship.

Next to the playground is the Elfin Oak, a sculpture made from the hollowed trunk of an oak tree carved with figures of faeries, elves and animals. The most popular attraction is the bronze statue of **Peter Pan**, to the west of the Long Water (the skinny northern part of the Serpentine). It was commissioned by the creator of Peter Pan, J.M. Barrie. The statue shows squirrels, rabbits, mice and faeries climbing up to Peter. The **Italian Gardens** are on the northern edge of the Serpentine near the Lancaster Gate. **Queen Anne's Alcove**, made by Sir Christopher Wren, is now located by the Lancaster Gate (it was originally in the south). **Queen Caroline's Temple** is a classical-style summer house overlooking the Long Water. Some of the graffiti inside dates back to 1821.

On the west end of Kensington Gardens is **Kensington Palace**. It was the principal residence of the royal family from the 1690s until 1760 when George III moved to Buckingham. Today, half of the palace is open to the public.

Regent's Park (395 acres)

Regents Park, designed by John Nash, was named for the Prince Regent. Today it is the busiest of the parks, and it is the largest grass area for sports in London. The **London Zoo**, with its collection of 755 animals, is located on the northern edge of the park. The Reptile House was featured in the first Harry Potter film. You can also enjoy the park's collection of waterfowl, and 100 species of wild birds. **Queen Mary's Garden** features 12,000 roses of over 400 varieties.

Primrose Hill on the northernmost part of the park is one of the six protected viewpoints in London. The park also has an open-air theatre, a boating lake and cafés.

Green Park (40 acres)

Green Park is the smallest of the royal parks, but it links St. James's Park to Hyde Park and, in doing so, creates a large, continuous green space that defines the city. The park is known for its rolling grasses and mature trees, and has very little landscape or architecture. There once stood several buildings on the park, but some were accidentally

destroyed by fireworks displays and some were demolished. The park used to be a popular spot for duelists.

[St. James's Park \(58 acres\)](#)

This is the heart of ceremonial London and the oldest of the royal parks. It was the first to be open to the public. St. James's Park is surrounded by three palaces: Westminster, St. James's Palace and Buckingham Palace. **Horse Guards Parade** is also part of the park. The **Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Walk** starts here and takes visitors through four of the royal parks: St. James's Park, Green Park, Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens. Though it sees heavy traffic, a number of birds reside in the park. They can mostly be found on **Duck Island**, a nature reserve located on the east end of the lake. In 1664, pelicans were first introduced into the park as a gift from the Russian Ambassador, and the tradition has continued ever since. The pelicans are fed fresh fish every afternoon. In 1837 the Ornithological Society of London presented some birds to the park and erected a cottage for a bird keeper.

Both the cottage and the position of bird keeper still exist today.

Art Galleries

National Gallery (Trafalgar Square)

This is London's leading art museum, with over 2,000 Western European paintings. It was founded in 1824 when George IV convinced the government to purchase 38 major paintings. Exhibits now cover the Middle Ages to the 20th century, with large collections of Dutch, Italian Renaissance and 17th-century Spanish paintings. Here you can find works by Jan van Eyck, Fra Filippo Lippi, da Vinci, Botticelli, Renoir, Rembrandt, Gainsborough, Turner, Cezanne, van Gogh, Constable and Velasquez.

National Portrait Gallery (Trafalgar Square)

This museum houses the world's largest collection of portraits, photographs and sculptures. See the faces of the people who have shaped Britain's history from the Middle Ages to the present day—all the big names from Elizabeth I to David Beckham. The 20th-century section contains

paintings and photographs of the royal family, politicians, rock stars, designers, artists and writers.

Royal Academy (Piccadilly)

The Royal Academy was founded in 1768. It is renowned for its summer exhibitions, which have been an annual event for over 200 years. For the rest of the year, the gallery shows prestigious temporary and touring exhibitions from around the world.

Tate Britain (North Bank, south of Westminster)

This is the national gallery of British art, spanning from 16th century to present day. The artwork on display is frequently rotated. The wing covering 1500 to 1800, a period of dramatic change in British history, covers the Tudors and Stewarts through to the time of Thomas Gainsborough, including works by Hogarth. There is also a display about the poet and artist William Blake. The wing covering 1800 to 1900 includes works by the “Victorian Narrative” painters such as William Powell Frith, and work from the pre-Raphaelites, Jonathan

Everett Millais and Dante Gabriel Rossetti, and paintings by Whistler. The period from 1900 to 1960 includes works by Jacob Epstein, Wyndham Lewis, Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth, Ben Nicholson, Francis Bacon and Lucian Freud. The Tate collection is especially notable for its post 1960 collection, which includes works by pop artists David Hockney, Richard Hamilton and Peter Blake, works by the landscape artist Richard Long and paintings by Howard Hodgkin and R B Kitaj. The Young British Artists of the 1990s represented by Damien Hirst,

Tracy Emin and Sarah Lucas. Tate Modern (South Bank, near Blackfriars Bridge)

This museum houses modern and contemporary art from around the world. The Turbine Hall runs the length of the building, and each year an artist is commissioned to exhibit in the space. See works by Cezanne, Bonnard, Monet, Matisse, Picasso, Rothko, Dali, Pollock, Warhol and Bourgeois.

Museums

British Museum

The British Museum's collection of artifacts spans over two million years of human history. See p.26 for an in-depth look at the museum.

London's Transport Museum (Covent Garden)

This museum houses a collection of public transportation vehicles including an early horse-drawn omnibus, the first Underground steam train, a train carriage dating to the 1890s, and a present day iconic red London bus. The exhibits focus on how transportation has shaped the growth of modern London, its culture and society since 1800. This museum also has a nice collection of 19th- and 20th-century advertising posters and artwork, including the original artwork for the Underground map and logo. Replicas of these works can be purchased at the museum gift shop. This is a good museum for both children and adults, as there are a lot of interactive exhibits.

Somerset House (Southeast of Covent Garden, on the north bank)

Somerset House was built by William Chambers in 1770. This neo-classical building houses the Courtauld Gallery with its Impressionist and Post-Impressionist works. There are also contemporary art and design exhibits and guided tours. The courtyard's winter ice rink bursts to life in the summer with 55 fountains.

Victoria and Albert Museum (South Kensington)

The displays in this museum cover 7 miles in total! It houses one of the world's greatest collections of art and design, spanning more than 3,000 years, from early Christian objects and the mystical art of Southeast Asia to cutting-edge furniture design. It was originally founded in 1852 as a museum of manufacturers to inspire students of design. The Fashion collection spans four centuries and is the largest and most comprehensive collection of clothing in the world. There are 7th-century gowns and 1930s eveningwear alongside pieces from

21st-century designers. There are also collections from Southeast Asia, Japan and China, each with paintings, sculptures, ceramics, textiles and metalwork. The Gilbert Collection, an assortment of gold, silver, micro mosaics, gold boxes and silverware, is now housed here. The collection is made up of a range of media, including prints, drawing, paintings, sculpture, ceramics, glass, metalwork, jewelry and furniture.

Science Museum (South Kensington) The science museum showcases scientific and technological developments throughout time, from steam engines, aero-engines and spacecrafts to the first mechanical computers. Highlights include an operational steam-powered engine from 1903, the Apollo 10 capsule, which took the astronauts to the moon in 1969 and Stephenson's Rocket. Experience what it's like to fly in the 3D and 4D simulators or see an IMAX movie in 3D.

Natural History Museum (South Kensington)

Displays in this museum cover ecology and the evolution of the planet, the origin of species, and the development of human beings. Highlights include the popular Dinosaur gallery, with animatronic models of dinosaurs; the Mammals display, with a model blue whale; the Diplodocus skeleton, a dinosaur measuring 83 feet from head to tail (hurry! It will be replaced by a real blue whale skeleton in 2017); and the Darwin center, which has a specimen collection stored in 450,000 jars.

Museum of London (The City)

This museum is dedicated to the history of London and will take you on an adventure through the capital's turbulent past. You will discover prehistoric London, see the city evolve under the Romans and the Saxons, explore medieval London, and take an in-depth look at the tumultuous years during the civil war, the plague and the fire. In the Galleries of Modern London, you can walk the streets of Victorian

London, stroll in a recreated pleasure garden, and see the opulent Lord Mayor's coach.

Sir John Sloane's Museum (northeast of Covent Garden in the City)

Sir John Sloane was a professor of Archeology who amassed a great deal of artifacts over his lifetime. He bought No. 12 Lincoln's Inn Fields; then over the years he bought No. 13 and 14 and rebuilt them into one large house. He laid out the rooms and decorated them in a way that would be most useful for students of Archaeology to come view his artifacts. When he died in 1837, he left his collection and his house to the nation, with the stipulation that nothing be changed. His eclectic collection fills every room and includes things like a sarcophagus from 1,300 BC and a giant fungus from Sumatra. The architecture is also quirky, with secret panels to store even more things and a glass dome that illuminates the whole house with a series of well-placed mirrors.

Westminster, Whitehall and Trafalgar Square (Walking Tour)

Enjoy a walk down Whitehall to experience the historic seat of both the government and the established church. On this walking tour you will see many of the iconic buildings that London is known for. Your walking tour begins at the **Houses of Parliament**. Since the 11th century, a Palace of Westminster has stood at this location, though hardly anything remains of the original structure. The present neo-Gothic building was built after the old palace was destroyed by a fire in 1834. Since the 16th century, this building has housed the two Houses of Parliament, the House of Lords and the House of Commons. The House of Commons is made up of elected Members of Parliament (MPs). The party with the most MPs forms the government, and their leader becomes the Prime Minister. The House of Lords is made up of peers, law lords, bishops and archbishops. Perhaps the most famous structure on this building is the clock tower,

known as **Big Ben**. Its four clock faces are nearly 23 feet in diameter. Big Ben has kept exact time for the nation almost continuously since 1859. Big Ben is actually the name of the 14-ton bell that was hung in the tower in 1858. It was named after Benjamin Hall, who was overseeing the work on the building when the bell was put in. The bell's chimes are broadcast daily on BBC radio. At the other end of the palace is **Victoria Tower**. This is the Queen's entrance to the palace. She comes to the State Opening of Parliament each year to give a speech, which marks the formal start of the parliamentary year. Just across the street from Big Ben is the **Westminster Pier** on the Thames. This is the starting point for many river cruises. Behind the Palace of Westminster is the famous **Westminster Abbey**. It is one of the most beautiful buildings in London. Today it is both a national church and a national museum. It has also been the scene of many coronations and royal weddings. The coronation ceremony is over 1000 years old. In 1066, William the Conqueror was the first to be crowned in the Abbey. The most

recent coronation (Queen Elizabeth II in 1953) was the first televised coronation. Since the 11th century, Westminster Abbey has served as the burial place of Britain's monarchs. The aisles are filled with a vast collection of tombs and monuments honoring some of Britain's greatest public figures, from politicians to poets. See p.37 for an in-depth look at Westminster Abbey.

As you walk between Westminster Abbey and the Palace of Westminster, you will see the **statue Richard I, Coeur de Lion** (the Lionheart), who was killed in battle in 1199. The statue was commissioned for the Great Exhibition in 1851 and later moved here. The Victorians were especially fond of the crusading king because he represented Britain's heroic past, though today some wonder if having a crusader in front of the seat of the government may not be appropriate. Below the statue are panels depicting Richard I in battle and on his deathbed. The latter shows him pardoning the French archer who mortally wounded him, though there is some doubt surrounding this story.

Next to the Abbey you will see **St. Margaret's Church**. This is a popular venue for many political and society weddings. You may wonder why there are two churches so close together. Westminster Abbey was originally a Benedictine Abbey and the monks were disturbed by the people of Westminster coming to hear Mass, so they built a smaller church nearby where the local people could receive the sacraments and leave the monks in peace! It was most likely built sometime in the 11th century. It had to be rebuilt in the 15th century because it had fallen into disrepair. The west window above the entrance commemorates Sir Walter Raleigh, who colonized Virginia under Elizabeth I. The windows in the north aisle pay homage to John Milton and *Paradise Lost*. The east window is a fine example of pre-Reformation Flemish glass. It depicts the marriage of Henry VIII to his first wife, Catherine of Aragon. The window in the sanctuary was a gift from Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain. The church was damaged from the bombings of World War II. Some of the damage can still be seen inside, and some of the stained-glass windows

depict more modern British figures, because the older windows were destroyed. Across from the Abbey is **Central Hall**, built in 1911 in the Beaux Arts style. Today it serves as Central London's largest conference center.



As you make your way up Whitehall, you will pass the **Cabinet War Rooms** on your left. In the cellars below this government office building, the War Cabinet met during World War II when German bombs were barraging London. Among the 150 rooms below ground are the living quarters for ministers and military leaders and a Cabinet Room, where strategic decisions were made. Today they are

laid out as they were when the war ended, and you can even see Churchill's desk, communications equipment, and maps used for planning battles and strategies. The building also houses a museum dedicated to Churchill's life and career.

Just past the Cabinet War Rooms, Parliament Street turns into Whitehall. In the middle of the street you will see the **Cenotaph**, a war memorial that was dedicated to the British soldiers who died during World War I. A wooden structure was originally built in 1919 for a remembrance service. It was so popular with the crowds, who came to lay wreaths at the monument, that a more permanent structure was built out of Portland stone in 1920 by Sir Edwin Lutyens. Cenotaph means empty tomb in Greek.

Whitehall gets its name from the old royal palace of Henry VIII. The Palace of Whitehall was completely destroyed by a fire in 1698 and subsequently demolished. The street is now the political heart of London, and its name is synonymous with British government.

A number of civil service and military buildings line the street. As you continue down Whitehall, the next street on your left is **Downing Street**. This is where the official residence of the Prime Minister is located, at Number 10 Downing Street. The first Prime Minister to live here was Sir Robert Walpole in 1732, when King George II offered him the house. Number 11 is the official residence of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who is in charge of the nation's financial affairs.

On your right you will see **Banqueting House**. It was designed by Inigo Jones in 1622. This was the first building in London to be built in the Palladian style of Renaissance Italy (Andrea Palladio was a Venetian architect whose work was inspired by Roman architecture. He, in turn, inspired many architects of the time with his Four Books on Architecture). For more than 200 years York Place stood at this location and served as the residence for the Archbishop of York. In 1529, when Cardinal Thomas Wolsey fell out of favor

with the king, Henry VIII confiscated the building for himself and renamed it Whitehall Palace (Westminster Palace had been damaged in a fire in 1512, so he had been staying in Lambeth Palace as a substitute). Whitehall Palace soon became his favorite residence. The first banqueting house was built on the site by Elizabeth I. James I built the first permanent banqueting house for his masques, theatrical productions performed by and for the Stuart kings and queens and their courtiers. They told the story of how the Stuart kings (James I and Charles I) brought peace and prosperity to a troubled land. There were plans to make an even more sumptuous palace, but the work was limited to the current construction of Banqueting House. In 1629 Charles I commissioned Rubens to paint the ceiling to commemorate the reign of his father, James I. The Stuart kings believed that they ruled by divine right, which angered the parliamentarians. The power struggle between Parliament and the king ended in the Civil War, and Charles I was tried for treason,

but refused to recognize the authority of the court and offered no defense. He was executed outside of Banqueting House on January 30, 1649, and was the only English king to ever be executed. After his death, a republic was established, known as the Commonwealth. Oliver Cromwell, who had been a staunch supporter of the rights of Parliament and led the parliamentary forces in the Civil War, became the new Head of State and Lord Protector of England. He lived at Whitehall for six years. In 1660 Parliament restored the monarchy and Charles II regained the throne and the residence.

Continuing down Whitehall, you will see the **Horse Guards** on your left. This is a parade ground that is protected by a guard. Every morning, the Changing of the Guard takes place and the guard is inspected every evening. It is said that in 1894 Queen Victoria found the guard drinking and gambling and ordered them to be inspected by an officer every evening for 100 years. Though their time was up in 1994, it is now part

of the tradition. Every year there is a military ceremony here on the official birthday of the Queen (celebrated the second Saturday in June) called Trooping of the Colour, where the troops are presented to the Queen.

If you follow Whitehall to the end, it will take you to Trafalgar Square. In the square you will see Nelson's Column, a monument built between 1839 and 1842, which commemorates Admiral Nelson's great naval victory in the Battle of Trafalgar during the Napoleonic wars on October 21, 1805. The bronze pedestal is made from old guns. The four bronze panels at the base of the column that depict some of Nelson's battles are made out of canons that were captured during the war. The lions are said to protect Nelson's Column. Many cultural events, performances and other special activities are held in the square by the fountains, which were added in 1845. There are also four plinths (or columns) in the square. Three hold bronze statues: General Sir Charles James

Napier on the southwest plinth, Major General Sir Henry Havelock on the southeast plinth and King George IV on the northeast plinth. The fourth plinth was empty for many years, and is now used in a contemporary art competition. The **Fourth Plinth** is the most talked about contemporary art prize in the UK. The winning artwork is displayed here in Trafalgar Square. Gift Horse was just unveiled earlier this month. Look for the skeletal horse with the live ticker of the London Stock Exchange pinned to it. It is the tenth sculpture to be displayed. Trafalgar Square also has a few quirky features. If you walk through the right-hand side of Admiralty Arch towards the Mall, you will notice a small protrusion on the left-hand wall. This is called the **London Nose**, and people say that it is a spare in case Nelson's nose falls off. The **Smallest Police Station in London** is also located in one corner of Trafalgar Square. It was built into a lamp post. Just big enough for one policeman, it was designed to keep an eye on demonstrations in the square. There are several buildings of interest surrounding the square.

The **National Gallery** is located at the north end, and the **National Portrait Gallery** is just behind that. Across from the National Gallery, on the northeast corner of the square is **St. Martin-in-the Fields**, a church that has long played a role in London's history. A church has stood at this location since the Norman Conquest, but the current building dates back to 1721. Though the church is well known for its humanitarian projects, from establishing the first free book-lending library to feeding the homeless, it is probably most famous for founding the world-renowned Music Academy of Saint Martin in the Fields. While visiting the church, you can also enjoy a quick bite in the **Café in the Crypt**, a unique dining experience to be sure.

Buckingham Palace and Environs

The Mall is the wide street leading from Trafalgar Square to Buckingham Palace. It forms the northern border of **St. James's Park**. The road was designed by Aston Webb at the same time that he redesigned the front of Buckingham Palace and built the Victoria Memorial in 1911.

The path was first laid out under Charles II, and it became London's most fashionable and cosmopolitan promenade. It is used for Royal processions on special occasions and the flagpoles on both sides of the road fly the national flags of foreign heads of state during official visits. For the **Changing of the Guard**, the guards march down the Mall from St. James's Palace to Buckingham Palace, and parade for half an hour. In the forecourt of the building, the palace keys are handed over to the new guard. These guards, with their scarlet tunics and tall furry hats (called bearskins), are an iconic figure for London.



The **Victoria Memorial** is a good place to watch the Changing of the Guard. The memorial comprises the Dominion

Gates (Canada Gate, Australia Gate, South and West Africa Gates), the Memorial Gardens and the large central monument. It was unveiled in 1911, ten years after the Queen Victoria's death. The monument is 82 feet high and made of 2,300 tons of Carrara marble. Victoria herself faces east, away from Buckingham Palace. On the top of the monument there is a gold statue of Victory. The two figures on either side of her represent Courage and Constancy. The north side of the monument has a statue of the Angel of Justice, the south is the Angel of Truth and the west is a statue of Charity. There are ships' prows representing the strength of Britain's navy just above the steps.

The first monarch to occupy **Buckingham Palace** was Queen Victoria, just after she came to the throne in 1837. Buckingham House was built in the 18th century, and John Nash was commissioned to turn it into a palace for George IV in 1826, but he was taken off the job five years later for overspending on the budget. The palace is very well situated, with **St. James's Park**

to the east, Green Park to the north and the Buckingham Palace Gardens to the west. In Henry VIII's time, these parks were stocked with deer and used for hunting. The palace first opened to visitors in 1993 to raise money for the restoration of Windsor Castle after it was severely damaged in a fire. Visitors can go up the grand staircase and through the State Rooms but not into the Royal family's private apartments, as this is the Queen's official London home and office. If you see the Royal Standard flying above the palace, the Queen is there. The East Wing of the building, the most iconic side, was added in 1913. Notice the balcony in the middle. This is where the Royal family stands to wave at the crowds.

If you like horse-drawn carriages, you should stop in at the **Royal Mews** (follow the road along the eastern side of the palace). This is the working stable and coach house for Buckingham Palace. It was designed by John Nash in 1825. Here you can see the glass coach used for Royal weddings and foreign

ambassadors and the ornate gold state coach, built for George III in 1762, used by the Queen during the Golden Jubilee celebrations in 2002. There is also a gift shop.

West End – Leicester Square, Chinatown and Soho

Behind the National Portrait Gallery, north of Trafalgar square, is **Leicester Square**, London's home of entertainment. Catch a West End show from one of the many theatres nearby, or you might even see a red carpet premiere at one of the world-class cinemas. Hollywood actors from around the world come to walk the red carpet on the square, and many of them have had their hands cast in bronze. You could also visit **M&M's World London**, the largest candy store in the world. The **TKTS booth** at The Clocktower in Leicester Square sells theatre tickets to the best shows in London, often at a discount, and all profits support the theatre industry. There is also a small garden in the square, with statues of Shakespeare,

Charlie Chaplin, the painter Hogarth, and John Hunter. The latter, touted as the founder of scientific surgery, had a house on the square where he kept his collection of 10,500 anatomical specimens.

Chinatown is just north of Leicester Square. This area had a history of housing London's immigrant population before the Chinese arrived in the 1950s. By the late 1960s, Chinatown was truly established as the center for London's Chinese community, which numbered in the tens of thousands, with more people arriving each day from the British territory of Hong Kong. Today, the community holds several festivals throughout the year and offers cuisine from across East Asia in 78 restaurants. This is also the place to go if you're looking for an authentic Chinese shopping experience.

Walk north of Chinatown and you are in **Soho**, the heart of London's West End. It is best known for its entertainment, food, shopping and nightlife. The big names in fashion and

electronics can be found on **Oxford Street**, to the east of the Oxford Circus Tube station, and **Regent Street**, which runs north-south between the Piccadilly Circus and Oxford Circus Tube stations. Some famous stores on Regent Street include Hamleys and Liberty. **Hamleys**, London's oldest toyshop, was established in 1760. This is one of the largest toy shops in the world, with seven floors of toys ranging from computer games to traditional teddy bears. They also sell collectors' items. **Liberty** is built in the style of a Tudor house and is one of the last great emporiums. There are five floors of fashion and beauty products, accessories, home wares and antique furniture. From Regent Street, if you take Beak Street east you'll hit Kingly Street, Kingly Court and Carnaby Street, all on your left. There are many interesting boutiques here.

Soho's many theatres offer a wide range of entertainment, from big-name musicals and classic plays to cabaret shows and standup comedy. Check the **TKTS booth** at The

Clocktower in **Leicester Square** for last-minute deals.

West End – Covent Garden

Until the 1970s, Covent Garden was primarily made up of warehouses, where fresh produce was sold. Now the area is teeming with young people who come here for its many shops, restaurants, bars and cafés.

From **Covent Garden Station**, head up **Neal Street**. Many of the old warehouses have been converted into specialty shops here. Take a left on Shorts Garden and you'll find Neal's Yard on your right. Shops include **Neal's Yard** Dairy (British farm cheeses, breads and dairy products) and Neal's Yard Remedies (organic skincare and cosmetics). Head back to Shorts Garden and continue to **Seven Dials**. There is a replica of the 17th-century monument that marks this historic seven-street intersection. Find interesting goods all around the dial: jewelry at Tatty Devine, shoes at Poste Mistress, local and imported candy at

Cybercandy, and all things sci-fi at Forbidden Planet. The **Cambridge Theatre** is also located here.

Leave Seven Dials by Monmouth Street and you will run into **St. Martin's Theatre**, home to the world's longest-running play, *The Mousetrap*. Follow St. Martin's Lane to **New Row** to check out the little shops and grab a bite to eat at one of the many cafés. Want something more substantial? Head up Garrick Street and then right onto Rose Street to stop in for a meal at the **Lamb and Flag** (formerly the Bucket of Blood), one of England's oldest pubs and a favorite haunt of Charles Dickens. Or if you're in the mood for a taste of the Caribbean, take Bedford Street to **Dub Jam**, a Jamaican restaurant.

If you follow New Row as it turns into King Street for a block you will come across **St. Paul's Church**, which was built by Inigo Jones in 1633. Next door is the **Covent Garden Piazza and Central Market**. There are

often entertainers in the piazza, and there are food and craft stalls in the market. The **Jubilee Market** is on the south end of the Central Market.

The north corner is formed by the Royal Opera House (entrance on Bow Street). See a performance by the Royal Opera or the Royal Ballet, or take a backstage tour. On the east corner is the London Transport Museum, with a collection of vehicles and vintage posters that track the history of public transportation in London. If you head south two blocks you can eat at PipsDish on Exeter Street. The perfect place for the indecisive eater; there's no menu so you get what you're given! It looks and feels like you're eating in someone's kitchen.



From here, you could head south to the water if you want to visit Somerset House, a neo-classical building that houses a few art exhibits and hosts performances. If you continue east you will come to the Temple, where law students are trained. The name comes from the Knights Templar, which were based here in medieval times. In Temple Church, marble effigies of knights lie on the church floor.

To see Sir John Sloane's Museum, head northeast up Russell Street (from the Central Market) to Kingsway, then take an immediate right on Sardinia Street. Here you will come to **Lincoln's Inn Fields**, a nice park. The museum is on the north side of the park and houses Sloane's vast collections.

West End – Piccadilly Circus and St. James's

For a touch of Times Square head to **Piccadilly Circus**. This hectic traffic junction surrounded by shopping malls is dominated by bright neon advertisements. The first electric

advertisements were installed here in 1910. Notice how they clash with the curved stucco façades of the older buildings and the 1892 statue of Eros in the middle of the square. From Piccadilly Circus head down Piccadilly and you will see the Royal Academy (p.44) on your right. Just beyond the Royal Academy is the Burlington Arcade, an opulent covered walk with fancy shops. Across from the Royal Academy on the street corner is Fortnum and Mason's. This store, founded in 1707, is best known for its ground-floor food department, where they sell Fortnum's tins of biscuits (which are cookies in British English), tea and cured meats.

Farther down Piccadilly, almost to **Green Park**, is the **Ritz**. This is one of London's most famous hotels. When the Swiss hotelier Cesar Ritz built this hotel in 1906, he had virtually settled down into retirement. The château-style building gives a subtle hint of Paris, where the grandest hotels were found at the turn of the century. This opulent and grand building was constructed in the Edwardian era. It is a popular place

for afternoon tea (reservations required).

Back at Piccadilly Circus, go south on Regent Street and you will see Jermyn Street on your right. This street is lined with elegant shops that sell antiques, unusual gifts and men's clothing.

If you take **Jermyn Street**, you will come across **St. James's Church** on the right. This church was designed by Sir Christopher Wren in 1684. William Blake was baptized here. The **Piccadilly Market** is held in the church's courtyard from Monday to Saturday. Across from the church is Duke of York Street, which takes you to **St. James's Square**. This square was the most fashionable address in London for a long time. Today, several businesses are headquartered there. There is a statue of William III in the center of the square.

The next street beyond the square is Pall Mall, which is lined with gentlemen's clubs that only admit members and their guests. If you head west on Pall Mall, you will see **Queen's Chapel** on the

corner of Marlborough Road. This was the first Classical church in England. It has a coffered ceiling (three-dimensional ceiling with sunken panels in the shape of squares, octagons or rectangles) and is built in the Palladian style. It was designed by Inigo Jones for the Infanta of Spain, who was supposed to marry Charles I. Work began in 1623 but the marriage fell through. The chapel was ultimately completed in 1627 for Henrietta Maria, his eventual bride. Across from Queen's Chapel is **St. James's Palace**. It was built by Henry VIII on the site of a leper hospital. It is the official residence of the Sovereign, though the Sovereign has lived at Buckingham Palace since Queen Victoria moved in 1837. It is not open to the public. From here, if you continue down Marlborough Road you will run into St. James's Park—OR— if you head north up St. James's Street, take a left on St. James's Place you will see **Spencer House** on your left. This aristocratic palace has been restored to its 18th-century splendor. The lavishly-decorated State Rooms are some of the first neo-classical interiors

in Europe, and are only open to the public on Sundays. If you continue west you will run into **Green Park** (p.43); heading south takes you to **St. James's Park** (p.43).

West End – Bloomsbury

Bloomsbury was home to several writers and artists. Today it is still well known for the book trade. It was one of the most fashionable areas in the city until the mid-19th century, when the wealthy relocated to Mayfair. It is dominated by the British Museum, built here in 1753, and the University of London, built in 1828. The collection in the British Museum (p.26) spans over two million years of human history. The building is surrounded by gardens. Bedford Square is on its western side. It is one of the best-preserved squares, and is still surrounded by its original Georgian terraces. It was the first garden square to require architectural uniformity. Bloomsbury Square and Gardens are located at the southeast corner of the museum. This is London's oldest square, and was created by Lord

Southampton as the piazza to his mansion in 1665. Russell Square is located at the northeast corner of the museum. This is one of the largest squares in London, and there is a café terrace where you can sit and watch the world go by. T.S. Eliot worked for a publisher on the square.

If you leave Russell Square on the eastern side and follow Guilford Street, you will come to Doughty Street, where Charles Dickens lived for a short time. Here he wrote *Oliver Twist* and *Nicholas Nickleby*. 48 Doughty Street is now the site of the Charles Dickens Museum, and the rooms are laid out as they would have been in Dickens' time. Objects have been collected here from his other London homes and there are several first editions of his works. The Harry Potter aficionado can visit Platform 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ at the nearby Kings Cross Station. Snap a picture of yourself pushing a trolley through the magical wall.

West End – Marylebone

Madame Tussaud's, the famous wax museum, is located south of Regent's Park on Marylebone Road. Madame Tussaud began her wax modeling career making death masks for victims of the French Revolution. In 1835 she moved to England and set up an exhibition of her work on Baker Street. Her techniques are still used to create wax figures of royalty, politicians, actors, pop stars and athletes. The exhibits include people in the entertainment world, world leaders, writers and artists. The Chamber of Horrors is the most well-known exhibit in Madame Tussaud's. Here you can see some of her original French Revolution death masks and recreations of murders and executions.

Head west on Marylebone Road and you will hit the famous Baker Street. The **Sherlock Holmes Museum** stands at 221B Baker Street, which is actually located between 237 and 239 (There was no 221B when Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote the books).

The building is the only Victorian lodging house on the street. You can see a reconstruction of Holmes' room and memorabilia from all of the stories. There is also a gift shop where you can buy a Holmes hat and pipe. Continue up Baker Street and you'll hit **Regent's Park** (p.43), the busiest of the royal parks.

South Kensington

South Kensington is known as London's museum quarter. It is just south **Kensington Gardens** (p.42) and **Hyde Park** (p.42), the two largest of the royal parks. From Kensington Road, on the block between Queen's Gate and Exhibition Road, you will see the **Albert Memorial** in Kensington Gardens. The monument was unveiled in 1872 and commemorates Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's husband, who died of typhoid fever in 1861. It shows him holding the catalogue of the Great Exhibition (see below).

At each corner of the memorial, there are marble figures repre

senting Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas. Higher up there are figures representing manufacturing, commerce, agriculture and engineering. Near the top there are gilded bronze statues of the angels and virtues. The base of the memorial depicts 187 famous painters, poets, sculptors, musicians and architects, to reflect Albert's love of the arts.

Between Kensington Road and Cromwell Road are a number of museums and colleges that sprouted up after the **Great Exhibition of 1851**. Prince Albert launched the Great Exhibition to celebrate industry, technology and the expanding British Empire. At the time, it was the biggest exhibition of its kind with nearly 14,000 exhibitors bringing 100,000 exhibits from all over the world.

Across from the Albert Memorial on Kensington Road is the **Royal Albert Hall**, which opened in 1870 and was modeled after a Roman amphitheater. Behind this building is a memorial to the Great Exhibition, with a bronze

statue of Prince Albert on top. And just beyond that is the **Royal College of Music**, founded in 1882. It houses a collection of historic musical instruments including a harpsichord dating from 1531.

Heading east and then south on Exhibition Road, you can find the **Science Museum** (p.46) and the **Natural History Museum** (p.46) on the next block. Follow Cromwell Road to the east and the next block over includes the Victoria and Albert Museum (p.46) and the Brompton Oratory. This church was opened in 1884 as part of the 19th-century English Catholic revival. The church houses many monuments from around the Catholic world. The 12 large 17th-century statues of the apostles are from Siena Cathedral; the Baroque Lady Altar, built in 1693, is from the Dominican church at Brescia; and the 18th-century altar in the St. Wilfred's Chapel is from Rochefort in Belgium. Just past the Oratory is **Brompton Square**, a nice little park. If you continue

down Cromwell Road you will hit **Harrods**, one of London's most famous grocery shops. In 1849, Henry Charles Harrod opened a small grocery shop that quickly became known for its service and quality.

The City

The City is the financial district of London and is also the oldest part of the capital. The Romans set up a trading post here 2,000 years ago. It used to be London's main residential area, but few people live here today. The Great Fire of 1666 demolished the area and nearly all of its buildings. Sir Christopher Wren rebuilt much of it after the fire and many of his churches are still standing today. The City was severely bombed during World War II and many of the old buildings are long gone, replaced by banks and postmodern developments.

Sir Christopher Wren's biggest undertaking was rebuilding **St. Paul's Cathedral**. This Baroque cathedral was built between 1675 and 1710, and many state ceremonies are held here. See p.29 for

an in-depth look at St. Paul's Cathedral. The **Museum of London** (p.47) is located north of the cathedral, on Saint Martin's Le-Grand, at the rotunda. This museum gives an account of life in London from prehistoric times to the outbreak of World War I, with many interesting artifacts.

Just north of that is the **Barbican Center**, a massive center for the arts. It is the base for the London Symphony Orchestra and includes a concert hall, two theatres, three movie theaters, two art galleries, a library, two trade exhibition halls, five conference rooms, foyers, shops and a conservatory. To the northwest of the rotunda is Saint **Bartholomew-the-Great**. The church was founded in 1123 and is one of the oldest churches in London. Much of it was demolished in 1543 when Henry VIII dissolved the churches, but the choir survived. The entrance leads to a courtyard through a tiny surviving fragment of the west front. The 13th-century arch is now topped by a Tudor gatehouse. Across the courtyard is the most intact Norman interior in

London. Back at St. Paul's Cathedral, go east on Cannon Street.

Taking a left on Bow Lane will take you to **Saint Mary-le-Bow**, which gets its name from the bow arches in its 11th-century crypt. It was founded around 1080 as the London headquarters of the archbishops of Canterbury. This unlucky church was destroyed by the Great Fire of 1666, rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren, and then destroyed again in 1941 during the bombing raids. It was re-consecrated in 1964 and still holds services today. Wren spent almost half of his budget for the church on the magnificent steeple of the tower that houses the "Bow Bells," the church's 12 bells, which are said to define anyone born within earshot as Cockney. The bell tower is 230 feet tall and the dragon weathervane at the top is 9 feet long.

Continue on Cannon Street and the ruins of the **Temple of Mithras** will be on your left. The ruins were first discovered in 1954. Archaeologists were clearing

the site for an office building when they uncovered the head of a statue of Mithras. A journalist happened to be walking by, and in the drab postwar city the story made front-page news. There was a huge scandal over the demolition of the site and the ruins were moved and haphazardly reconstructed nearby. Archaeologists today are trying to reconstruct the site more faithfully and have found that very poor records were kept at the time. They are asking Londoners who were at the site 60 years ago to send in any pictures or memorabilia they may have to help with the reconstruction project. The temple will be incorporated into a new building and will be back on view to the public by 2017.

Head up Walbrook Street to get to **Saint Stephen Walbrook**. This is another church built by Sir Christopher Wren and is considered to be one of his finest. The interior is lit by the light that floods in from the dome. Supported by eight columns and arches, this dome was, in a way, the dress rehearsal for the dome

Wren later built for St. Paul's. The plain, large white stone altar was designed by Henry Moore in 1987 and contrasts with the opulent dome. Just north of the church is **Mansion House**, the official home of the Lord Mayor. The Palladian façade was built in the style of a Roman temple.

Across the street is the City of London **Magistrates' Court**. North through the intersection is the **Bank of England**, which houses the **Bank of England Museum**. This museum takes you through the history of the bank, from its foundation in 1694 to its role today as the central bank of the country. The museum contains a collection of interesting artifacts: gold bars from various time periods, coins and



banknotes, the pikes and muskets used to defend the bank, pieces of Roman pottery that were uncovered when the bank was rebuilt in 1930, and documents from famous customers like Horatio Nelson and George Washington. You can even touch some of the gold bars.

At the intersection, take Lombard Street, named after the bankers who moved here from Lombardy in the 13th century. Follow it when it curves to the left to see the traditional banking signs that are still hanging today. At the intersection with Grace church Street, if you continue on Lombard Street as it turns into Fenchurch Street, you can take Lime Street on your left to get to **Lloyd's of London**, the world's main specialist insurance market. Lloyd's of London got its start in the 17th century when Edward Lloyd's coffeehouse became known as the place for obtaining ship and cargo insurance. The present building was built in 1986 with nearly 325,000 ft.² of stainless steel cladding and nearly

130,000 ft.² of glass. It makes for a spectacular view when it is lit up at night.

Back at the intersection of Lombard Street and Gracechurch Street, take Gracechurch Street south towards the water. **Leadehall Market**, on the left, is a covered Victorian market with stalls that sell flowers and fresh food, to shops, pubs and restaurants. The glass roof is stunning. The entrance to the Leaky Cauldron in the first Harry Potter movie is in the market.

Continuing south you will come to the **Monument of the Great Fire of London**. The fire is believed to have started in a baker's house on Pudding Lane on Sunday, September 2, 1666. Because so many of the buildings were made of wood with thatched roofs, the fire raged for three days before it was finally extinguished. Although there was little loss of life, it destroyed the greater part of the city and brought all activity to a halt. Thousands of houses, hundreds of streets, several public buildings and churches were all

severely damaged or consumed. The cost of the fire was estimated at £10 million at a time when London's annual income was only £12,000. The architect Sir Christopher Wren was hired to plan the new city, but it took over 30 years to rebuild London. When he built this column as a memorial of the fire it was the tallest stone column in the world, at 202 feet high. That is the exact distance to the location on Pudding Lane where the fire started. There is a bronze flame at the top, and the column's base shows Charles II restoring the city. Inside the column there is a stone staircase with 311 steps that leads to an observation deck at the top of the monument. Each visitor to make the climb receives a certificate as proof of this athletic achievement! Head south to the River Thames and then continue east to the **Tower of London**, the fortress built by William the Conqueror to guard the entrance to the city. See p.32 for an in-depth look at the Tower of London. On your walk keep an eye out for the **Gherkin**. This tall round office building was designed by Sir Norman

Foster (who also designed More London across the river on the south bank). The building is actually named 30 St. Mary Axe, but Londoners affectionately refer to it as the Gherkin because of its shape. It is closed to the public.

South Bank, Bankside and Southwark

Enjoy a bird's eye view of London without having to climb any stairs at the **London Eye**! This 443-feet tall observation wheel was built in 2000 to celebrate the Millennium. Coca-Cola took over the sponsorship of the London Eye in 2015, so now it lights up red at night. They also added a number of special events. Take a 30 minute ride in one of the capsules and enjoy breathtaking views of London and the surrounding countryside for up to 26 miles on a clear day, or add something to that with a special ticket. Options include wine, champagne, whiskey and chocolate tastings.

South Bank

Just next door is the **London Dungeon**, where you can take a 90-minute journey through 1,000 years of London's murky history. As you walk through the Dungeon you will move from show to show, guided by professional actors. Meet characters like Jack the Ripper and Sweeney Todd and explore the eerie streets of East London, a plague-ravaged house, and a torture chamber, just to name a few. Also near the London Eye is the **London Aquarium**, which boasts Europe's largest collection of global marine life.

Want to enjoy a nice stroll in London? Head north along the Thames, taking the **Queen's Walk** along the waterfront. This pedestrian walkway is several miles long and passes some of London's most popular tourist attractions, as well as many shops, cafés, bars and restaurants. This is a great way to explore the sites on the South Bank and to see London's many bridges. The first bridge you will come across is the **Queen's Golden Jubilee Footbridges**, built in 2002. There has been a walkway crossing the river here since 1845. The new footbridges were named in honor of

the 50th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's ascension to the throne. The project faced several challenges, including unexploded World War II bombs and avoiding the tube tunnels which run just a few feet under the river bed.

The next bridge you will see is the **Waterloo Bridge**, built in the 1940s and named in honor of the British, Dutch and Prussian victory over Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. It is nicknamed "The Ladies Bridge" for the women who built it. Much like in the United States, when the men were called to battle during World War II, the women of England became the wartime workforce. They made up one third of the total workforce in the metal and chemical industries, shipbuilding and vehicle manufacturing. They also worked on the railways, canals and buses.

Just past Waterloo Bridge is the **National Theatre**. This complex houses three auditoriums, rehearsal rooms, set-building and scene-painting workshops, costume- and prop-making and digital design. Around 1,000 people work on its five-acre site. The

National Theatre broadcasts six productions a year to movie theaters worldwide. Next you will come across **Gabriel's Wharf** on your right. This artsy enclave has it all: cafés, bars, restaurants and, of course, shops! You can buy anything from jewelry to ceramics and home furnishings to artwork. Next door is the OXO Tower. There is a rooftop restaurant, brasserie and bar, and they all provide stunning views across the Thames. The next bridge is Blackfriars Bridge. Blackfriars rail station gets half of its power from the 4,400 roof-mounted solar panels which took nearly 5 years to install.

Coming up on your right is Tate Modern, which houses one of the world's premier collections of contemporary art in the former Bankside Power Station. Across from Tate Modern is the Millennium Bridge, which leads to St. Paul's Cathedral on the north bank. It was the capital's first dedicated pedestrian footbridge. It is over 1,200 feet long and supported by eight suspension cables.

Next to Tate Modern is the Globe Theatre, a reproduction of an Elizabethan theatre. It was opened in 1997 near the site of the original 1599 Globe where many of Shakespeare's plays were first performed. It was built using the same technology and materials available at the time of the original theatre, with handmade bricks and wooden pegs. It even has a thatched roof—the first one allowed in London since the Great Fire of 1666. On the guided tour you will learn about the original Globe, the reconstruction of this building, and about the many theatre events that are held here today. There is an exhibit under the Globe that explores the life of Shakespeare, London during his time, and the theatre for which he wrote.

Next up is the green and yellow **Southwark Bridge**. When this bridge was restored in 2011 it took more than 1,000 tons of expandable abrasive to blast off the old paint and get down to the bare metal framework, and it took nearly 3,500 gallons of paint to repaint it.

Coming up next is the **Clink Prison Museum**. It is built on the original site of the Clink Prison, which was burned down in 1871 in a protest (the protesters also released all of the inmates). The original prison was built in 1144 and was one of England's oldest and most notorious prisons. "The clink" is now used as a slang term for prison that comes from the name of this building. The area of Southwark was known as a loud and bawdy neighborhood, so the prison saw its fair share of debtors, heretics, drunkards and harlots. Visitors can see archaeological artifacts, handle torture devices and hear tales of the inmates' torment and misfortunes in this infamous prison.

In the water by the dock you'll see the **Golden Hinde II**, a fullsize reconstruction of the ship that Sir Francis Drake used to circumnavigate the globe between 1577 and 1580. You can take a self-guided tour or an interactive tour with actors in period dress. Search the deck for hidden treasure, raise the anchor or fire a cannon. You may want to check

availability ahead of time, as the ship is also available for weddings and private parties.

The next bridge you will come across is **London Bridge**, London's oldest bridge. The famous Tower Bridge, a little farther down, is often mistakenly called "London Bridge" because it is so iconic of London. You can see stunning views of that bridge from here. The **London Bridge Experience** is located in the arches of the original 1831 bridge. It traces the 2,000 year history and the haunted tunnels below. Included in the London Bridge Experience is a visit to the London Tombs, where you can visit the haunted catacombs as zombies and other creatures leap out of the darkness.

Instead of continuing along the river, you can go down **Borough High Street** (the road that leads from the bridge) to see the **Southwark Cathedral** on your right. According to oral tradition there was a community of nuns here even before the Norman Conquest. Inside the church there is an archaeological chamber, which displays the remains of old Roman roads. The

Choir is the oldest part of the church and dates back to the 13th century, making this the oldest Gothic church in London. There is also a memorial window to William Shakespeare, and the Harvard Chapel is a tribute to the university's founder, John Harvard, who was born here. Heading back to the water, if you follow the road as it forks towards the right, you will come across **Borough Market**. This market traces its roots to medieval times, and moved to its present location in 1756. It is London's oldest and most renowned food market. Many chefs and restaurateurs buy their produce here. Producers from all over the country fill the 70 stalls and stands to sell fish, meats, vegetables, ciders, cheeses, breads, coffees, cakes and pastries. There are often special events and live cooking demonstrations too.



The full market is open Wednesday to Saturday (8-5 on Saturdays, 10-5 on weekdays). It is only open for lunch on Mondays and Tuesdays (10-5).

If you head back to Borough High Street and take the left fork this time, you will come to the **George Inn**, a restaurant and a popular pub. This building dates from the 17th century and is the last remaining galleried coaching inn in London. Heading back towards the water, turn right on St. Thomas Street. The **Old Operating Theatre** on your left is the only remaining 19th-century operating theatre in England. Like the medical students in the early 1800s, you can watch demonstrations of surgical techniques, and you can even volunteer to be “operated on.” The operating theatre is located in the top of an old church in what used to be the herb garret (where medicinal herbs were cured and kept). Learn about how herbs were dried and stored for the hospital’s apothecary.

Just beyond the Old Operating Theatre,

is **the Shard**, Western Europe's tallest building and London's newest landmark. The observation deck on floors 68, 69 and 72 is almost twice the height of any other viewing platform in the capital. Back along the water is **Hay's Galleria**. The Hay's wharf complex has been restored to its former glory of the 1850s, when ships from all over the world would deliver their goods here. There are both traditional craft and market stalls as well as more permanent shops.

If you look out into the water you will see the **HMS Belfast**. This ship was built in the 1930s and was part of the Royal Navy. Today it is permanently moored in the Thames and operates as a museum. Explore all nine decks of the HMS Belfast and learn about its history during World War II. See what life was like at war and at sea; you can explore the bakery, the dentist's office, the laundry room, the sick bay and the Operations room, among others.

Next up is **More London**, a modern development on the South Bank. **The Scoop** is an outdoor, sunken

amphitheater that holds 1,000 people and stages events all year round. The modern building next to it is **City Hall**. It was designed by British architect Norman Foster, who also designed the Gherkin and the Millennium Bridge. Critics have likened the building to a misshapen egg, a motorcycle helmet and an onion, but it actually leans towards the south to avoid the most intense direct daytime sunlight, making it one of London's greenest buildings.

You are now coming up on **Tower Bridge**, London's most iconic bridge. It was designed for Queen Victoria by the architect Sir Horace Jones and was completed in 1894. The bridge's roadway can be raised for large cargo ships to pass through, and many tourists time their visits in order to see this. The Tower Bridge Exhibition will take you nearly 140 feet above the River Thames to the walkways. Newly-installed glass floor panels literally put London at your feet. Enjoy panoramic views of the city from these walkways, which were closed between 1909 and 1982 due to suicide jumpers. The visit ends in the Victorian .

Engine Rooms, which house the original steam-powered bridge lifting machinery. Before you head to the north bank to continue on your journey, enjoy the view of the **Tower of London** across the river. A sightseeing cruise on the river is a great way to enjoy many of these sights



Bath

Chances are, if you've read Jane Austen, you are familiar with Bath. It was famous for being a spa town in the 18th century, and many an Englishman came here looking to cure his gout. Bath was the fashionable center of Georgian society in the 18th century, thanks in large part to Richard "Beau" Nash, who was elected Master of Ceremonies in 1704. He kept the idle rich amused with a never-ending round of games, balls and entertainment.



It also owes its reputation as one of Europe's most elegant spas to architects John Wood and his son. They helped transform the medieval wool town with their architectural designs of the Royal Crescent and the Circus. They actually only designed the facades and left individual property speculators to develop the houses behind. So the fronts are an elegant, uniform design and the back is a hodgepodge of individual tastes. However, the first people to take an interest in Bath were the Romans, who transformed the hot springs in Bath into England's first spa resort as early as the 1st century. As you walk around town, enjoy the splendid views of the surrounding countryside and the green hills of the Avon valley.

Pulteney Bridge is lined with shops

and connects the center of town to Great Pulteney Street. Heading south along the river, you will see the **Parade Gardens**. This pretty riverside park was the secret meeting place of many courting couples. Across from the park is **Bath Abbey**. According to legend, God came to Bishop Oliver King in a dream and told him how to design the church (the carvings in the west front of the building tell this story). The Bishop began work in 1499, rebuilding a church that had been founded in the 8th century. The façade depicts stone angels climbing Jacob's Ladder to heaven.

The **Roman Baths** are located next to the Abbey. They were built in the 1st century and are one of Britain's greatest examples of Roman-era architecture. The Romans were here for four centuries and developed increasingly sophisticated bathing chambers. The baths fell into ruin, but extensive excavations have revealed the remarkable skill of Roman engineering.

The open-air Great Bath was not discovered until the 1870s. Water flows from the spring into the corner of the bath at a constant temperature of 115°F. Next to the Roman Baths are the **Pump Rooms**. These tea rooms were once the social hub of the 18th-century spa community. Behind these buildings, across York Street is **Sally Lunn's House**, which dates from 1482 and is one of Bath's oldest houses. Head north if you feel like shopping; Milsom Street and New Bond Street contain some of Bath's most elegant shops. Continuing north you will come across the **Assembly Rooms and Museum of Costume**. The Assembly Rooms were built by Wood the Younger in 1769 and served as a meeting place for the fashionable elite. Many balls were held here and Austen's Northanger Abbey perfectly captures the atmosphere of gossip and flirtation, and the teenage desire to be fashionable and find a handsome dance partner. The basement houses a collection of costumes dating from the 16th century to present day.

Just across the street is the **Circus**, created by the John Wood the Older. It is a bold departure from the typical Georgian square. Continuing down Brock Street you will come to the **Royal Crescent**, an arc of 30 houses built by John Wood the Younger. Some say it is the most majestic street in Britain. **No.1 Royal Crescent** houses a museum with many detailed furnishings. It gives you a glimpse of what life was like for 18th-century aristocrats, like the Duke of York, who probably lived here.



Stonehenge

Who built Stonehenge and for what purpose? The mystery shrouding the monument has captivated visitors for centuries. Though we may never know the answer, it is clear that only

Stonehenge

something very important would have been worth the effort and investment that it took to build Stonehenge.

Construction of Stonehenge

Stonehenge was in the making for at least 400 years. The first phase, built around 3000 B.C., was a simple circular earthwork enclosure similar to many “hengés” (sacred enclosures typically comprising a circular bank and a ditch) found throughout the British Isles.

Around 2800 B.C., timber posts were erected within the enclosure, which was also not unusual. Archaeologists have long believed that Stonehenge began to take on its modern form two centuries later, when large stones were brought to the site in the third and final stage of its construction. These stones fall into two categories. The bigger stones are known as **sarsens**, and measure up to 30 feet tall and weigh 25 tons on average, with some weighing up to 50 tons. They were brought from Marlborough Downs, 20 miles to the north. The smaller stones are referred to as **bluestones** because they have a bluish tinge when they are wet. These measure up to 10 feet, weigh

up to 4 tons and come from western Wales, which means they were transported as far as 140 miles! There are many theories as to how these stones were moved to the site, but it clearly took a lot of manpower. The importance of the bluestones is underscored by the immense effort involved in moving them a long distance. The first stones to be put in place were the 80 or so bluestones (about 4,600 years ago), arranged in a double circle with an entrance facing northeast. About 200 years later, the sarsen stones were added in the shape of a horseshoe. Each pair of these stones had a stone lintel connecting them. Surrounding the horseshoe, there was another ring of sarsens with their tops all connecting to each other. About 100 years after that, Stonehenge was expanded again with two more bluestone rings, one inside the horseshoe and another between the horseshoe and the outer layer of sarsen stones.



Who built Stonehenge?

Even today this question remains largely unanswered. Throughout the years the monument's construction has been attributed to many ancient peoples, the most captivating being the Druids. Julius Caesar and other Roman writers told of a Celtic priesthood that flourished around 55 BC. By this time though, the stones had already been standing for 2,000 years. There is also a legend that claims that Merlin used magic to bring the stones from Ireland to stand at their current location.

What was the purpose of Stonehenge?

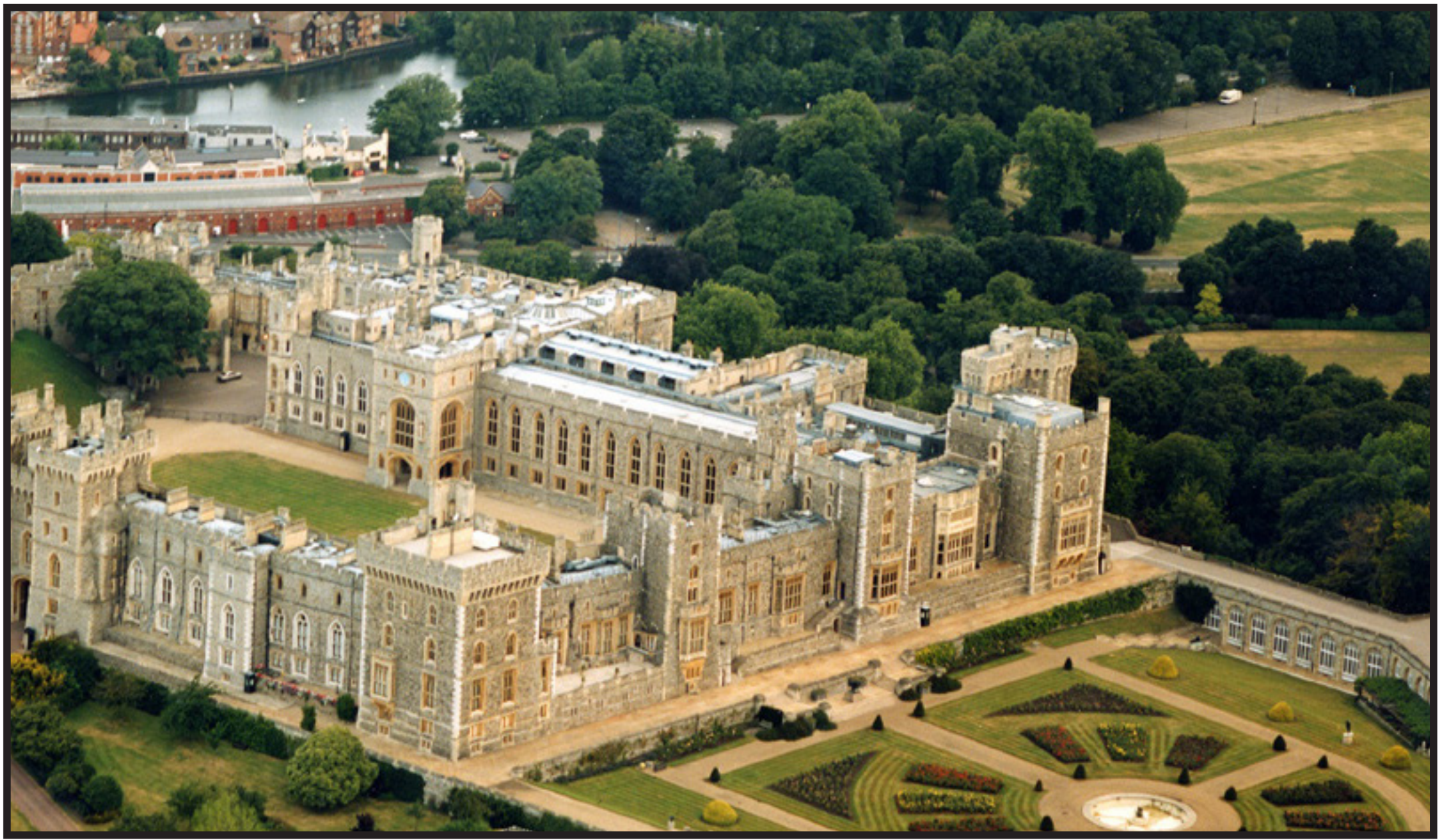
This question also remains unanswered. With new archaeological discoveries being made, it seems that Stonehenge was just one part of the complex and constantly changing sacred landscape. It appears that the area was sacred long before Stonehenge was even built. Three large pine posts, which served as a kind of totem pole, were erected at the site 10,500 years ago. There is evidence that hunting played an important role in the area long before

Stonehenge was built. The abundance of game could have led people to believe the area had sacred powers. Researchers recently discovered a massive wooden building at the site, which could have been used for burial rituals. They have also discovered dozens of burial mounds near Stonehenge. Others suggest that the site was used for ritual sacrifices, but this idea has been mostly discredited. Still others claim that people traveled for miles to come to Stonehenge because of its healing powers. Archaeologists using ground penetrating radar and magnetometers have mapped Stonehenge and the surrounding area, suggesting that the site was bigger than the area with the standing stones. A more recent theory suggests that Stonehenge was built to mark the unification of Britain, since Stonehenge was a massive undertaking and would have required thousands of people to work together to move the stones. Check out the Smithsonian's recent article "What lies beneath Stonehenge" for more theories.

Windsor Castle

Windsor Castle is the largest and oldest continuously inhabited castle in Britain. It was originally founded in 1080 as a wooden motte and bailey (This style first appears in the 12th century. These castles stood atop two adjacent mounds enclosed by a wall and defensive ditches. The higher mound, or motte, was the most strongly defended. The lower bailey was where the people lived.). It was originally built by William the Conqueror to guard the western approaches to London. He chose the site because it was atop a hill and only a day's journey from his base in the Tower of London. Henry II and Edward III were responsible for the bulk of the alterations to the building until the castle was remodeled by George IV in 1823. The building's architecture showcases the royalty's changing tastes. King George V loved the castle so much that he chose Windsor as his family surname in 1917.

The **Eastern Terrace Garden** was created by Sir Jeffry Wyatville for King



George IV in the 1820s. The **State Apartments** contain many treasures, including an 18th-century bed in the King's State Bedchamber, which is still decorated as it was in 1855 for a visit by Napoleon III. George IV also had his architect add a new grand entrance and staircase to the State Apartments, along with the **Waterloo Chamber** to celebrate the defeat of Napoleon in 1815. The table in the Waterloo Chamber can seat 60 guests.

The **Semi-State Rooms** are among the most richly decorated rooms in the castle and are used by the Queen for official entertaining. They were severely damaged by a fire in 1992, but fortunately their contents had been moved elsewhere. The rooms have since been completely restored using the original designs. **Queen Mary's Dolls' House**, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens,

is the largest dolls' house in the world. It was given to Queen Mary in 1924 and is one of the highlights of a trip to Windsor. It is an exact replica of an aristocratic home, complete with a garden, a library filled with works written by the top literary names of the day, and a fully stocked wine cellar. It even includes electricity, running hot and cold water, and working elevators and lavatories. The **Audience Chamber** is where the Queen greets her guests. The **Drawings Gallery** houses the Royal Collection. Some of the pieces are on display here, including works by Michelangelo and da Vinci.

The **Round Tower** in the center of Windsor was first built of wood by William the Conqueror. Henry II rebuilt it out of stone in 1170. Today it houses the Royal Archives and Photographic Collection. The **Albert Memorial Chapel** was first built in 1270 and rebuilt in 1485. It was converted to a memorial for Prince Albert in 1863. **St. George's Chapel** is the architectural highlight of the castle, and one of the finest

examples of Gothic architecture in England. It was built between 1475 and 1528. Ten monarchs are buried here, including Henry VIII, his third wife Jane Seymour, and Charles I. **Windsor Great Park** spans 4,800 acres and stretches for 3 miles beyond the castle.

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