

















MUST SEE LOCATIONS ON LONDON WAY ITINERARY




	<p>Big Ben</p>	<p>It's important to clarify that "Big Ben" actually refers to the bell housed within the Elizabeth Tower. However, it seems like this iconic structure will continue to be commonly referred to as Big Ben for the foreseeable future. Designed by Edmund Beckett Denison and Sir George Airy, the Astronomer Royal, and constructed by Edward John Dent and Frederick Dent, the current tower replaced a previous structure destroyed in a fire in 1834. By 1859, it was once again chiming and continues to produce the same chimes heard today. Here are some interesting details about this quintessentially London landmark:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In 1367, the first chiming clock in England was installed at this location. - In the 17th century, a large sundial occupied the spot where the present tower now stands. - Each clock dial now measures seven meters in diameter, which is equivalent to 77 stacked coffee cups. - The minute hands of the clock weigh as much as 85 full wine bottles. - There are 312 pieces of glass in each clock dial, whereas the nearby Westminster Abbey contains over 30,000 pieces of glass. - The Ayrton light above the clock is illuminated when Parliament is in session, as per Queen Victoria's request, to signal when Parliament is sitting. - Despite sustaining damage during the Second World War, including destruction of ornamental ironwork, damage to stonework, and breakage of all glass in the south clock face, the tower remained standing as a national symbol. The chimes of Big Ben were broadcast on wireless radio throughout the war. - The Latin inscription beneath the clock face reads ""DOMINE SALVAM FAC REGINAM NOSTRAM VICTORIAM PRIMAM,"" translating to "O Lord, keep safe our Queen Victoria the First." - In June 2012, the House of Commons announced that the clock tower would be renamed the Elizabeth Tower in honour of Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee. Following extensive renovations to preserve the tower, it resumed chiming in 2022. 	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yj71CwDQ2Y&t=5s</p>
	<p>Boudica and her Daughters</p>	<p>Located at the western end of Westminster Bridge, the Boudica and Her Daughters statue depicts Boudica, the queen of the Celtic Iceni tribe, who famously led an uprising against the Romans in 60 AD.</p> <p>The statue was commissioned by Queen Victoria in the 1850s, as both names, Bodicea and Victoria, share the meaning of "victory." The chariot in the statue is inspired by Roman design, which is ironic considering Boudica's rebellion was directed towards the Romans. Boudica is remembered as a courageous and iconic figure in British history.</p> <p>Boudica fought against the Romans due to their failure to honour an agreement made with her husband, King Prasutagus, regarding the succession of the Iceni tribe. Following Prasutagus's death, the Romans seized the tribe's lands and mistreated Boudica and her daughters. Outraged by this betrayal and the mistreatment of her family, Boudica led a rebellion, seeking retribution for the unjust actions of the Roman forces. She was unsuccessful. Some sources claim that she died shortly after her defeat, while others suggest that she may have taken her own life to avoid capture.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rxWucSi2k1k</p>
	<p>The Battle Of Britain</p>	<p>The Battle of Britain Memorial is dedicated to the aircrew who flew in the Battle of Britain during World War II. It is an incredibly physical memorial deliberately designed to engage people on a personal level to touch and feel. It consists of various scenes depicting not only the Battle of Britain but also military and civilian life during that time, such as people enduring the London Blitz. Features include spotters with binoculars searching for enemy planes, ground crew, and even women working in munitions factories. The centrepiece of the monument is known as "Scramble," featuring the depiction of airmen rushing towards their planes after being ordered to intercept enemy aircraft.</p> <p>The Battle of Britain was a pivotal air campaign fought between the Royal Air Force (RAF) of Britain and the German Luftwaffe during World War II from July through September 1940. It was a significant turning point in the war, as the RAF successfully defended the United Kingdom against a massive German aerial onslaught, thwarting Hitler's plans for invasion. One of the most famous lines of Winston Churchill's speech, The Few, is "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few"</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ovfQjR3iU-A</p>



	<p>Royal Palace of Whitehall</p> <p>The Indian Mutiny</p>	<p>Whitehall Palace and gardens, also known as White Hall, was the main home of the English monarchs from 1530 until 1698. It was enormous and stretched from Westminster to what is now St. James's Park. Sadly, a fire destroyed almost all of the palace's vast complex in 1698, except for Inigo Jones's Banqueting House. The fire started on the afternoon of 4 January 1698, when a maidservant was drying linen sheets on a charcoal brazier in a bed chamber. This was a common practice, but it was forbidden to leave braziers unattended. Unfortunately, the maid left the room, and in just a split second, the sheets ignited, setting fire to the bed and eventually leading to the catastrophic fire that engulfed the palace. After the fire, Queen Anne (1665-1714) moved the official royal residence from Whitehall to St. James's, bringing an end to its time as a royal home.</p> <p>Whitehall Gardens in London is a French inspired garden enclosed within elaborate railings, home to three statues including William Tyndale, Sir Henry Bartle Frere, and General Sir James Outram.</p> <p>William Tyndale was an English biblical translator, humanist, and Protestant martyr born in 1490-1494. He became a leading figure in the Protestant Reformation and known for translating most of the Bible into English, making it more accessible to the common people. Translating the Bible into English was considered heresy because the Church held the belief that only the sacred tongue of Latin was acceptable for the Bible and was seen as a threat to the Church's authority. Hunted on the Continent, betrayed by an Englishman for money and condemned to die a heretic, Tyndale was tied to a stake, strangled with a rope and burnt near Brussels in 1536.</p> <p>Sir Henry Bartle Frere was a British colonial administrator born in 1815 and had a successful career in India, rising to become the Governor of Bombay from 1862-1867. He also served as the High Commissioner for Southern Africa from 1877-1880, where he implemented policies to impose a British federation on the region, which led to conflicts with Zulu and Boer groups in South Africa.</p> <p>Sir James Outram was a British general and colonial administrator born in 1803, who held various posts in India during his service, including his leadership in the Indian Mutiny* of 1857.</p> <p>*The Indian Rebellion of 1857, also known as the Indian Mutiny was a major uprising in India against the rule of the British East India Company. The rebellion began on May 10, 1857 when a group of sepoy (Indian soldiers serving in the British army) mutinied against their British officers. It quickly spread to other parts of India, including Delhi, Agra, Kanpur, and Lucknow.</p> <p>The causes of the rebellion were multifaceted. They included social, economic, and political factors, such as the introduction of new Enfield rifles with cartridges rumoured to be greased with animal fat, which offended the religious sentiments of both Hindu and Muslim soldiers. There was also discontent among soldiers and a broader Indian population due to British domination, discrimination, and infringements on Indian customs and traditions. The rebellion had a profound impact on British colonial policies in India, leading to the end of the East India Company's rule and the beginning of direct British government involvement in India's administration.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3vyFQEEvH7s</p>
	<p>Westminster Pier River Boat to Greenwich</p>	<p>Boats run along the Thames both eastbound and westbound roughly every half an hour. Its an excellent way to see the city from a different perspective and this pier is pram and wheelchair accessible via ramp.</p>	<p>https://www.thamesclippers.com/plan-your-journey/find-your-pier/westminster-pier</p>
	<p>Camel Corps - The 'Ships of the Desert'</p>	<p>The Imperial Camel Corps, was a unit of mounted infantry created during World War I to patrol the western desert and protect Allied troops in Egypt, Sinai, and Palestine. Comprised of British, Australian, New Zealand, and Indian troops, the Camel Corps played a crucial role in the campaigns of the Middle East, particularly in countering the Ottomans and the Senussi confederation of tribes.</p> <p>Once described as the "ship of the desert", camels can carry around 145 kilograms and go without water for up to five days. A modern racing camel can canter as fast as a horse and can sprint at 40mph. Each regiment had around 770 men, and at full strength the brigade (in WWI between 3,500 and 4,000 soldiers), contained almost 4,000 camels! Around 120,000 camels were used by the British military during the First World War. The death rate among camels was very high because of the harsh environment and approximately 24,000 camels were killed in action. However, to maintain the amount of camels (both the mounted animals and the draught animals for transport), there was a camel hospital, with specially trained Army Veterinary Corps.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H8IES3fQ-I</p>




	<p>Cleopatra's Needle</p> <p>How to move England's largest stone!</p>	<p>Cleopatra's Needle is one of a pair of ancient obelisks that were originally erected around 1450 B.C. in front of the grand Temple of the Sun at Heliopolis by Thothmes III. The London Obelisk weighs one hundred and eighty-six tons, and is about ten times the weight of Stonehenge's largest block. It is therefore by far the largest stone in England.</p> <p>In 1798, Napoleon Bonaparte and his forty thousand French troops arrived in Egypt and successfully took control of the country. However, Admiral Nelson later defeated the French fleet in Aboukir Bay, and in a crucial battle near Cleopatra's Needle in 1801, Sir Ralph Abercrombie led the British forces to a victory over the French army, liberating Egypt from the French. Inspired by their triumphs in Egypt, British soldiers and sailors decided to bring a fallen obelisk back to England as a symbol of their victories. Despite their initial efforts and contributions, the ambitious plan faced challenges and opposition from military leaders, leading to its abandonment. Nevertheless, part of the pedestal was uncovered and raised, with a brass plate commemorating British achievements placed on it.</p> <p>In 1820, King George IV was presented with the obelisk by Mehemet Ali, the ruler of Egypt at the time to commemorate the British military victories in Egypt and on the Mediterranean during the Napoleonic Wars. However, the British government did not accept the gift. Subsequent attempts to transport the obelisk to London in 1831, 1849, and 1851 were met with various obstacles, including concerns over the cost of transportation and the condition of the monument. However, in 1877, General Alexander intervened to save the obelisk from being destroyed for building material. After significant efforts to excavate and protect the monument, it was encased in an iron cylinder and floated to England from Egypt. Despite encountering a storm in the Bay of Biscay during the journey, the obelisk was eventually recovered off the coast of Spain and brought to its current location on the Thames Embankment.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sK9cLcRnRU8</p>
	<p>National Submarine War Memorial</p> <p>London's Beautiful Boulevard</p>	<p>In 1921, a vast sum of £2,130 was collected through public contributions to construct a memorial tablet dedicated to the Officers and Men of the Submarine Service R.N. On the memorial you can see a bas relief that depicts the close confine interior of a submarine, with nereids swimming on either side. Nereids were believed to be guardians of the sea and protectors of sailors and fishermen, often providing aid to those in distress. Adjacent to the bas relief, there are allegorical figures representing Truth and Justice. The central bronze plaques are flanked by 40 bronze wreath hooks in the shape of anchors. It is worth noting that during World War I, 54 submarines belonging to the Royal Navy were sunk, resulting in the loss of over 1,300 submariners' lives.</p> <p>The construction of the embankment in London began in the mid-19th century with the purpose to alleviate the problem of frequent flooding along the River Thames. By narrowing the river and creating the embankment, the flow of the water could be better controlled during high tides and heavy rainfall. Secondly, the embankment project provided an opportunity to improve the city's infrastructure and create a grand boulevard.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ruaYjaekdFo</p>
	<p>St Paul's Cathedral</p> <p>The Gunpowder Plot</p>	<p>St. Paul's Cathedral has a rich history that spans over a millennium. The original cathedral was built on this site in 604 AD but was destroyed by fire in 1087. A new cathedral was commissioned by William the Conqueror, and construction began in the late 11th century, taking over 200 years to complete, in 1240! The Great Fire of London in 1666 destroyed the old cathedral. Sir Christopher Wren designed the magnificent structure that stands today. Throughout its existence, St. Paul's Cathedral has been a symbol of resilience and endurance, standing as a testament to the city's history and enduring spirit.</p> <p>The most public and notorious display of the consequences of treason took place on January 30, 1606, in the courtyard of St Paul's Cathedral. The Gunpowder Plot was a failed attempt of regicide against King James I by a group of English Catholics who sought to blow up the House of Lords during the State Opening of Parliament. They were caught! In an effort to deter others from committing similar acts, the four individuals closely associated with the plot were executed. Sir Everard Digby, Robert Winter, John Grant, and Thomas Bates faced a brutal demise, meeting their end in the churchyard by hanging followed by disembowelment. Guy Fawkes, the man whose name now lends itself to Guy Fawkes Night on November 5th, involving the lighting of bonfires and fireworks, was executed at Westminster. Weakened by torture and assisted by the hangman, Guy Fawkes somehow avoided the torment of hanging by falling and breaking his neck on the way to the scaffold! However, his lifeless body was still quartered and his body parts were distributed to different regions of the kingdom as a warning to potential traitors.</p> <p>A nursery rhyme reminds children "Remember, remember the 5th of November, gunpowder, treason and plot; for there is a reason why gunpowder and treason should ne'er be forgot."</p> <p>WHAT TO SEE IN ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL</p> <p>Climb to the Whispering Gallery: Ascend to the Whispering Gallery, located inside the cathedral's iconic dome, and experience the unique acoustic phenomenon where whispers can be heard clearly on the opposite side of the gallery.</p> <p>Explore the Crypt: Descend to the crypt, which houses the tombs of historic figures such as Admiral Lord Nelson, the Duke of Wellington and the Duke of Gaunt.</p> <p>Visit the Geometric Staircase: Take a look at the Geometric Staircase, designed by Sir Christopher Wren, an architectural marvel with its intricate and intriguing features.</p>	<p>https://www.stpauls.co.uk/</p>




	<p>St Mary-le-Bow Church</p> <p>Pocahontas</p> <p>Test Your Cockney Slang</p> <p>1st Governor of Australia</p>	<p>Turning into a picturesque courtyard, St. Mary-le-Bow is a historic church located in the heart of London, specifically in the area known as Cheapside. 'Cheap' was a term for 'market', making this area a bustling and prosperous trading hub in London dating back to Elizabethan times. The church holds significant importance to the 'Cockney' community of London.</p> <p>To truly understand the connection, let's start with what it means to be a Cockney. The term Cockney originally referred to someone born within the sound of the bells of St. Mary-le-Bow. These bells were heard across the vibrant and working-class East End.</p> <p>Cockney rhyming slang is a form of coded language to confuse outsiders and originated in the East End of London. It involves replacing a common word with a phrase that rhymes with it. For example, instead of saying "take the stairs," a Cockney speaker might say "up the apples and pears"! See if you can use some of examples:</p> <p>"Trouble and strife"- Wife "Butcher's hook" - Take a look "Daisy roots" - Boots "Rosy Lee" - Cup of tea "Adam and Eve" - Believe. Would you 'Adam and Eve' it? "Dog and bone" - Phone "Hampstead Heath" - Teeth "Pork pies" - Lies. Don't tell 'pork pies'!</p> <p>The statue outside the church is that of Captain John Smith (of Pocahontas fame), founder of Virginia, and within there is an 'Australia Corner' of Admiral Arthur Phillip, the first Governor of Australia, born in the parish of St. Mary-le-Bow.</p>	<p>https://www.stmarylebow.org.uk/</p>
	<p>John Milton Passage</p> <p>Bread Street Prison</p>	<p>This modern passage adjacent to St Paul's Cathedral bears the name of the renowned English poet, John Milton, who is best known for his epic poem, Paradise Lost, published in 1667. The passage was named after Milton because he was born on Bread Street. Not surprisingly, the name "Bread Street" has its roots in the sale of bread. In the 13th century, the City of London imposed regulations on bread prices and quality. If a bread seller violated these regulations, they could be publicly humiliated by being paraded through the area with the offending loaf hung around their neck.</p> <p>One notable building that used to exist on Bread Street, approximately in the location of the current alley, was an early debtor's prison. It remained there until its closure in 1555. The prison keeper, Richard Husband, was infamous for his extreme cruelty and corruption, even by the standards of that time. A smaller prison like this was mainly for debtors, religious dissidents, drunks, prostitutes, homosexuals and asylum-seeking slaves. Often prisoners were cramped into communal spaces and sickness was rife. Author Charles Dickens's father experienced debtors prison, deeply influencing the theme of prisons in his stories. Dickens himself played a pivotal role in advocating for prison reform.</p>	
	<p>The Royal Exchange</p> <p>An Elizabethan Shopping Mall</p>	<p>The Royal Exchange, established in the 16th century, was England's first 'shopping centre'. Queen Elizabeth I inaugurated the building on January 23, 1571.</p> <p>Initially, the Royal Exchange served as a hub where merchants and traders convened to conduct their business. It took inspiration from the world's oldest financial exchange, the Bourse in Antwerp. Today, the Royal Exchange has transformed into a unique destination that blends history, shopping, and dining. It houses a collection of luxury boutiques, retail stores, restaurants, and cafes, notably an off-shoot restaurant of Fortum and Mason. A serene hub in the city.</p> <p>The war memorial by the entrance is dedicated to the officers, NCO's and men of London who fought and were killed in the First and Second World Wars.</p>	<p>http://www.theroyalexchange.co.uk/</p>
	<p>St Mary Woolnoth</p> <p>Slavery Abolition</p> <p>Amazing Grace</p>	<p>Two notable figures are associated with St Mary Woolnoth church concerning slavery: John Newton and William Wilberforce.</p> <p>John Newton was a former slave trader turned abolitionist and Church of England minister. Newton's famous hymn, "Amazing Grace," speaks of his personal transformation from a slave trader to an advocate for the abolition of slavery. Newton served as rector of St Mary Woolnoth from 1780 to 1807 and is commemorated with a memorial plaque in the church.</p> <p>William Wilberforce was a British politician, philanthropist, and leader of the movement to abolish the slave trade. He worked closely with John Newton, among others, to address social and humanitarian issues. Wilberforce was instrumental in the passage of the Slave Trade Act of 1807, which abolished the transatlantic slave trade in the British Empire.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oBYVmnMFmIA</p>





	<p>Monument Great Fire of London</p>	<p>The Monument to the Great Fire of London is a striking and historic landmark that offers a fascinating glimpse into the city's past. Designed by Christopher Wren, of St Paul's Cathedral fame, standing at an impressive height of 202 feet, it commemorates the devastating fire that swept through London in 1666. You can climb the 311 steps to the top of the Monument for breathtaking panoramic views of the city and the River Thames.</p>	<p>https://www.themonument.org.uk/</p>
	<p>Pudding Lane & Lovat Lane</p>	<p>PUDDING LANE is a narrow, charming street near the Monument to the Great Fire of London, making it an essential stop for those interested in exploring the events that shaped the city. This pivotal event, which began in a bakery in the early hours of September 2nd 1666, started on Pudding Lane and ultimately led to the destruction of a vast portion of the city. The bakery is marked by a plaque on the wall. Can you find it?</p> <p>Pudding Lane got its name from the butchers of Eastcheap Market, who used it to transport "pudding" (offal) to the river for disposal by waste barges. This historic lane was one of the world's earliest one-way streets, with a specific order to restrict cart traffic to one-way travel.</p> <p>LOVAT LANE, is a small but historically significant street, has a rich past dating back to medieval times. Once home to affluent families in the 14th century, the lane later became known for its vibrant market stalls. Today, Lovat Lane is a popular spot for tourists and locals alike, thanks to its charming shops and narrow sidewalks.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SPY-hr-8-M0</p>
	<p>Hung, Drawn & Quartered Plaque</p>	<p>Samuel Pepys' significance to the Hung Drawn and Quartered Pub plaque stems from an entry in his diary where he recounts witnessing an execution in Charing Cross on October 13, 1660. Samuel Pepys, (pronounced Peeps), is celebrated for his detailed diary, which provides insight into the official and upper-class life of Restoration London from 1660 to 1669.</p> <p>The punishment of being ""Hung, Drawn, and Quartered"" was a gruesome method reserved for those convicted of high treason. It involved a series of steps, beginning with hanging the person, but not to the point of death. They were then cut down while still alive for the subsequent stages. Drawing followed, which entailed opening their abdomen and removing and burning their internal organs before their eyes. Finally, the person was quartered, dividing their body into four parts. This brutal punishment was a public display intended to deter acts of treason, with the mutilated body parts often exhibited in various locations as a warning to others.</p>	<p>https://www.hung-drawn-and-quartered.co.uk/?utm_source=googlemybusiness&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=yext&utm_content=P04.2&y_source=1_MTIyMzcyMDAtNzE1WxvY2F0aW9uLndlYnNpdGU%3D</p>
	<p>All Hallows by the Tower Saxon Wall Founder of Pennsylvania US President John Quincy Shackleton's Crowsnest</p>	<p>All Hallows-by-the-Tower, an extraordinary historic church overlooking the Tower of London, was founded in AD 675, making it one of the oldest churches in London. The steward of the church will be able to share with you the fascinating features inside, which is definitely worth your time to explore. Due to its proximity to the Tower of London, it provided a temporary burial ground for beheaded victims of Tower executions, including Sir Thomas More.</p> <p>Admire a section of the original 7th-century Anglo-Saxon wall that surrounded the city of London.</p> <p>Notably, All Hallows-by-the-Tower has ties to significant historical figures such as William Penn, the founder of the Province of Pennsylvania, who was born nearby and baptised here.</p> <p>The church also holds the distinction of hosting the marriage of John Quincy Adams, the sixth president of the United States, to Louisa Catherine Johnson in 1797.</p> <p>Can you find the replica of the crow's nest from Ernest Shackleton's ship, Endurance, which played a part in a daring expedition to the Antarctic in 1914? The original ship was trapped and crushed in ice, but Shackleton and his crew managed to survive and undertake subsequent expeditions.</p> <p>Lastly, inside the church, you will find the most stunning WWI effigy of Lieutenant Alfred Henry Forster, son of the former governor-general of Australia.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cdcr4-j1IRo</p>






	<p>The Merchant Navy</p> <p>The Seven Seas</p>	<p>The Merchant Navy Memorial commemorates men and women of the Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleets who died in both World Wars and who "have no grave but the sea." Later, the Falklands War Memorial was added. A sunken garden is accessed by steps behind the original Lutyens WWI memorial. At intervals between the panels are sculptures representing the seven seas and two sculpted sentries, a Merchant Navy sailor, and officer stand at the top of the steps.</p> <p>WHAT ARE THE SEVEN SEAS? Throughout history, different countries and cultures have had varying interpretations of the concept of the "seven seas". Medieval Arabian literature referred to the Seven Seas as those encountered during their voyages to the East. In the British colonial era, the term "seven seas" was used to denote the seas navigated along the Clipper Ship Tea Route from China to England.</p> <p>The Greeks included the Adriatic Sea, the Aegean Sea, the Black Sea, the Caspian Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, the Persian Gulf, and the Red Sea. These are just a few examples. Can you name the modern 'Seven Seas'?</p> <p>WHAT IS THE MERCHANT NAVY? The term "Merchant Navy" was created by King George V in 1919 to recognise seafarers during World War I. It refers to all the ships that are not military ships, meaning they are not painted grey and don't have guns on them. To understand this better, think of any ship that weighs over 100 tons (of which there are about 88'000 ships worldwide). These ships are used to transport goods, commodities, and passengers across the world. When you work on a ship, you are an employee of the specific company that owns it.</p>	<p>https://www.cwgc.org/visit-us/find-cemeteries-memorials/cemetery-details/90002/tower-hill-memorial/</p>
	<p>The Tower of London</p>	<p>The Tower of London is an historic castle built in 1066 as part of the William the Conqueror's Norman Conquest, and consists of several buildings within defensive walls and a moat. Over the centuries, the Tower has served various purposes, including as a royal residence, prison, treasury, and home to the Crown Jewels of England. Despite its reputation, only seven people were executed within its walls:</p> <p>Anne Boleyn: The first of Henry VIII's six wives to be executed, Anne Boleyn was beheaded on Tower Green in 1536. Her execution was a bloody and brutal affair, and her headless body was buried in an unmarked grave inside the Tower walls.</p> <p>Catherine Howard: Like Anne Boleyn, Catherine Howard met her end on Tower Green, after being convicted of adultery. She was beheaded in 1542, at the age of 18.</p> <p>Lady Jane Grey: Lady Jane Grey was just 16 years old when she was executed on Tower Green in 1554, after nine days on the throne. She was convicted of treason for aligning herself with Protestant rebels.</p> <p>Thomas More: One of the most famous victims of Henry VIII's bloody reign, Thomas More was executed on Tower Hill in 1535. He was beheaded after refusing to accept Henry as Supreme Head of the Church of England.</p> <p>Thomas Cromwell: Also executed on Tower Hill, Thomas Cromwell was Henry VIII's chief minister until he fell out of favour and was beheaded in 1540.</p> <p>In the late 15th century, the famous, young 'Princes in the Tower', were housed at the castle when they mysteriously disappeared, presumed murdered by their uncle who would become King Richard III.</p> <p>The Tower has had its share of famous prisoners, too. It served as a prison for all sorts of people, including rebellious nobles and foreign spies, notably Elizabeth I before she became queen. One of the most famous prisoners was Sir Walter Raleigh, an explorer and adventurer. He spent twelve long years locked up in the Tower, but his creativity wasn't stifled. He wrote books, studied science, and even invented a special tobacco pipe! During the Tudor period, the Tower of London's role as a royal residence dwindled, giving way to its notoriety as a grim prison in the 16th century. Originally a royal castle, it primarily housed high-ranking prisoners for short periods, with common citizens held elsewhere. In contrast to its harsh reputation, prisoners could improve their accommodations by purchasing comforts like better food and tapestries. Incredibly, since the Elizabethan era, the Tower has been a tourist attraction, drawing visitors with attractions such as the Royal Menagerie and now the vault where you can visit the spectacular Crown Jewels.</p> <p>At least six ravens are kept at the Tower at all times, in accordance with the belief that if they are absent, the kingdom will fall. They are under the care of the Ravenmaster.</p>	<p>https://www.hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london/#gs.9tfttk</p>
	<p>The Gallows Spot</p>	<p>Contrary to popular misconception, only a small number of executions actually took place within the Tower complex itself. The majority of public executions occurred on the nearby Tower Hill.</p> <p>Notable individuals of great importance during their time, such as Anne Boleyn (1536), Catherine Howard (1542), and Lady Jane Grey (1554), who were all queens, were executed within the Tower. These executions were conducted privately, away from the public eye, befitting their high status. Anne Boleyn, in particular, was given special treatment, with a skilled swordsman brought from France to ensure a swift death.</p> <p>In a starkly different account, Margaret Pole, the 68-year-old Countess of Salisbury, suffered a gruesome demise at the hands of an inept executioner. She was brutally hacked to death after an initial failed attempt to behead her. Despite her frailty and illness, she leapt from the block and was chased by her axe-wielding executioner, enduring eleven blows before finally succumbing.</p> <p>The last recorded execution within the Tower involved Josef Jakobs, a German spy captured after parachuting into England during World War II. On August 15, 1941, he faced a firing squad and was shot as the final person executed within the Tower's walls.</p>	<p>https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryMagazine/DestinationsUK/ExecutionSitesinLondon/</p>

	<p>Tower Bridge</p>	<p>Tower Bridge is a globally recognized bridge, known for its towers and raising bascules. While often confused with London Bridge, Tower Bridge stands out as London's iconic landmark. The unremarkable-looking London Bridge, next to Tower Bridge, on the other hand, is the oldest river crossing in London that has undergone multiple reconstructions over the centuries. Before the construction of Putney Bridge in 1729, London Bridge was the sole crossing over the Thames. As the population increased, it could take hours to cross from one side of the Thames to the other, and Tower Bridge was built in the 1870s to provide a new river crossing. Its Neo-Gothic design was chosen to harmonise with the nearby Tower of London, as requested by Queen Victoria.</p> <p>Keep an eye on your navigation here to take the steps down off the bridge to get to river level on the embankment.</p>	<p>https://www.towerbridge.org.uk/</p>
	<p>Food Lovers at Borough Market</p>	<p>Borough Market is a vibrant and historic food market in Southwark. It has a history that dates back to at least the 12th century, making it one of the oldest and largest food markets in the city. The current market buildings were constructed in the 1850s, and over the years, Borough Market has evolved into a hub for specialty foods and fresh produce. It is a food lover's paradise. There's a vibrancy of London's food scene offering a wide range of delicious world flavours and drink options. You can explore the market's bustling stalls and indulge in artisanal cheeses, freshly baked bread, cakes and pastries and mouth-watering street food.</p> <p>Borough Market is definitely worth aiming for to grab lunch or snacks for your walk.</p>	<p>https://boroughmarket.org.uk/</p>
	<p>The Old Operating Theatre Museum</p>	<p>As you walk past St Thomas Street on your left, you can take advantage of visiting The Old Operating Theatre Museum. It is the oldest surviving operating theatre in Europe and offers a glimpse into the conditions and practices of early surgical procedures in the 18th and 19th centuries. The museum dates back to 1822 and was used for teaching surgical techniques before the advent of anaesthesia and antiseptics! In 1703, royal physician Richard Mead regularly published herbal preparations, including Snail Water for venereal disease! The recipe included '6 gallons of garden snails cleansed and bruised, and earthworms washed and bruised, 3 gallons'.</p> <p>The space is characterised by its wooden tiered seating where spectators used to observe surgeries. The museum exhibits a range of artifacts related to surgery and medical practice. These include surgical instruments, anatomical models, and antique medical equipment. You can learn about the different medical theories and practices prevalent during that time, as well as the social and cultural context in which medicine was practiced.</p>	<p>https://oldoperatingtheatre.com/</p>
	<p>Imperial War Museum Bedlam Hospital</p>	<p>The Imperial War Museum is a must-visit. It was founded in 1917 during World War I to record the war effort. The museum's collection includes many artifacts, documents, and art pieces that depict the impact of war on individuals and societies. It is an important institution as it preserves and educates visitors about the history of modern conflicts, ensuring that the experiences of those impacted by war are not forgotten. It has a vast collection of over 10.7 million items or collections.</p> <p>The original area where the Imperial War Museum now stands was the notorious Bethlem Royal Hospital, a psychiatric hospital also known as Bedlam, that gained a reputation for its poor conditions. In 1930, the hospital's buildings were deemed unsuitable for modern psychiatric treatment, so it was relocated and the site was chosen to house the Imperial War Museum. Today, "Bedlam" is commonly used to describe a noisy and chaotic situation with no order or complete disorder and confusion. During the 18th century, visitors could pay admission fees to view the patients and this was a form of entertainment for the public, who would observe the supposed "madness" of the patients housed in the hospital.</p>	<p>https://www.iwm.org.uk/</p>
	<p>The Bell Building Catherine Howard Tudor</p>	<p>The Bell Public House on Lambeth Road has a fascinating Tudor history. The house served as the London residence of the powerful Dukes of Norfolk. The original Norfolk House was located opposite Lambeth Palace, on a site that now encompasses the Novotel London Waterloo. The property was set in acres of garden and orchards, with the Howard family vault and chapel remaining as the main features.</p> <p>Catherine Howard (born c. 1524—died February 13, 1542) was the fifth wife of King Henry VIII of England. However, Henry discovered that Catherine had had secret liaisons with other men before their marriage, and also after the marriage. In 1542, Parliament passed the Treason Act, which declared that if an unchaste woman married the king, she was guilty of treason and subject to execution. Catherine Howard was executed at the Tower of London on February 13, 1542. She was 18 years old.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=29ZN59-bS_s</p>
	<p>Lambeth Palace</p>	<p>Lambeth Palace, situated on the south bank of the River Thames is the official residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury. It has served as the London residence for archbishops for nearly 800 years, with the palace's origins dating back to around 1200. The main façade of Lambeth Palace features a combination of medieval, Tudor, and Gothic architectural styles with later additions.</p> <p>The impressive gateway, Morton's Tower, was built in 1490 and is still used as the main entrance to Lambeth Palace. Beginning in the thirteenth century, Archbishop Winchelsea initiated ""The Lambeth Dole,"" a daily act of charitable giving offering bread, broth, and money to the poor. This only ended in 1842. In the 16th century, a small cell in the south battlement tower was briefly used for imprisonment, and remnants of this history can still be seen in the form of two iron rings fixed to the wall.</p>	<p>https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/about/lambeth-palace/visit-lambeth-palace</p>




	<p>The Garden Museum Mutiny on the Bounty</p>	<p>The Garden Museum of Lambeth is the world's first Museum of Garden History. It is a museum that you must visit, even if you think you know nothing about gardening. It also has a delightful café from which you can overlook the gardens.</p> <p>The museum is dedicated to the art, history, and design of gardens and gardening but the history of the building and its garden is surprising. You can ascend the 131 steps to the top of the Garden Museum's medieval tower for stunning views of London. The tower, dating back to 1377 is the museum's oldest section.</p> <p>At the heart of the Garden Museum is the courtyard garden, designed as an 'Eden' of rare plants. Among the courtyard you'll find the ornate tomb of Captain William Bligh, captain of the infamous 'Mutiny on the Bounty'* voyage. See if you can find where Elizabeth Boleyn (formerly Howard) is buried. She was the wife of Thomas Boleyn. She was not only the mother of Mary, George, and Anne Boleyn, but also the maternal grandmother of Elizabeth I.</p> <p>*The Mutiny on the Bounty was an historic event that occurred on April 28, 1789, involving a mutiny against the commanding officer, Lieutenant William Bligh, on the British Royal Navy ship, HMS Bounty. The mutiny took place in the South Pacific, near Tonga.</p> <p>The mutiny was led by Fletcher Christian, the ship's master's mate, and several other members of the crew. The reasons for the mutiny were complex and included discontent with Bligh's leadership style, his harsh treatment of the crew, and disagreements over the mission's objectives.</p>	<p>https://gardenmuseum.org.uk/</p>
	<p>The SOE Memorial WWII Cryptography Violette Szabo</p>	<p>Violette Szabo, was a British-French agent of the Special Operations Executive (SOE), operating behind enemy lines during the Second World War. She joined the SOE after her husband, Etienne, was killed. Tragically, during her second mission in occupied France, Szabo was captured and subjected to brutal interrogation and torture at Gestapo headquarters at 84 Avenue Foch, Paris. Ultimately, she was deported to Ravensbrück concentration camp in Germany, where she was executed, aged 23.</p> <p>The use of famous poems as cryptographic tools to conceal messages was a common practice but this method was soon deemed vulnerable, as the enemy's skilled cryptanalysts managed to trace the originals from published sources. Recognising the need for a more secure approach, the renowned cryptographer Leo Marks intervened with his own compositions.</p> <p>One such creation was "The Life That I Have," an original poem for his girlfriend Ruth, who had recently been killed in a plane crash. The poem was issued especially by Marks to Violette Szabo.</p> <p>The life that I have Is all that I have And the life that I have Is yours.</p> <p>The love that I have Of the life that I have Is yours and yours and yours.</p> <p>A sleep I shall have A rest I shall have Yet death will be but a pause.</p> <p>For the peace of my years In the long green grass Will be yours and yours and yours.</p> <p>Leopold Marks, MBE was an English writer, screenwriter, and cryptographer. After the war, Marks became a playwright and screenwriter.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nmm17eZGgoM</p>
	<p>Rodin's Statue The Burghers of Calais</p>	<p>The Burghers of Calais, a sculpture by Auguste Rodin, is a representation of an event during the Hundred Years' War, a series of conflicts lasting from 1337 to 1453 fought between England's Edward III and Philip VI of France. The statue specifically commemorates the surrender of Calais, a French port on the English Channel, to the English after an eleven-month siege. The sculpture depicts six burghers, or notable citizens of Calais, who volunteered to sacrifice themselves to save their city from destruction. Their lives were spared through the intervention of Queen Philippa of England, the wife of King Edward III who pleaded for their lives to be spared.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjGwF5NwWJA</p>


	<p>Women's Suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst</p>	<p>This statue of Emmeline Pankhurst is located at the entrance to Victoria Tower Gardens, which is situated south of Victoria Tower at the corner of the Palace of Westminster. Emmeline Pankhurst (1858-1928) was a British political activist who played a pivotal role in the suffragette movement, advocating for women's right to vote in Great Britain and Ireland. Pankhurst founded the Women's Social and Political Union in 1903 to push for women's voting rights and used militant tactics to draw attention to the cause, leading to her multiple imprisonments. Her efforts culminated in British women achieving full equality in the voting franchise in 1928, the year of her death.</p>	
	<p>Westminster Abbey</p>	<p>Westminster Abbey has been a place of worship and celebration for over a thousand years, with its origins dating back to the 10th century. Since 1066, the abbey has served as the site for the coronations of 40 English and British monarchs and has been the backdrop for at least 16 royal weddings. The construction of Westminster Abbey can be traced back to between 960s and 970s when the original abbey was founded by King Edgar. The existing Gothic structure we see today was mainly built during the reign of King Henry III in the 13th century. To fully experience the rich history and significance of Westminster Abbey, consider joining a guided tour led by knowledgeable guides. Learn about the fascinating stories behind the Abbey's construction, its royal connections, and the notable individuals buried or commemorated within its walls.</p> <p>An estimated total of 18 English, Scottish and British monarchs are buried in the abbey. Notable figures include Charles Darwin, Stephen Hawking, Isaac Newton, Henry Purcell, William Wilberforce, Rudyard Kipling, William Shakespeare, Lawrence Olivier, George Frideric Handel, Charles Dickens and Geoffrey Chaucer. Sixteen Great War poets are commemorated on a slate stone unveiled on 11 November 1985.</p> <p>KINGS & QUEENS - How many of these can you find during your visit? Eleanor of Castile, Queen of England, in 1290; wife of Edward I Edward I, King of England, in 1307 Philippa of Hainault, Queen of England, in 1370; wife of Edward III Edward III, King of England, in 1377 Richard II, King of England, in 1413 (reburial from King's Langley Priory) Henry V, King of England, in 1422 Catherine of Valois, Queen of England; wife of Henry V Mary I, Queen of England, in 1558 Mary, Queen of Scotland and Queen Dowager of France, in 1612 (reburial from Peterborough Cathedral); mother of James VI and I Elizabeth I, Queen of England, in 1603 Anne of Denmark, Queen of England and Scotland, in 1619; wife of James VI and I James VI and I, King of England and Scotland, in 1625 Charles II, King of England and Scotland, in 1685 Mary II, Queen of England and Scotland, in 1695 William III, King of England and Scotland, in 1702 Prince George of Denmark, Duke of Cumberland, in 1708; husband of Anne, Queen of Great Britain Anne, Queen of Great Britain, in 1714</p>	<p>https://www.westminster-abbey.org/</p>
	<p>Richard I Statue Horse Statue Fun Fact</p>	<p>King Richard I, also known as Richard the Lionheart, ruled England from 1189 to 1199 and was great-grandson of William the Conqueror. He is renowned for his military prowess and participation in the Third Crusade. Despite his absence from England for much of his reign, he left a lasting impact on history. Richard I's chivalrous reputation and leadership in battles, including the Siege of Acre, earned him respect and admiration. His capture and ransom by Leopold V, Duke of Austria, became a legendary tale. Richard's death in 1199 marked the end of an era, influencing literature and folklore, and solidifying his legacy. He was succeeded by his brother King John, of Robin Hood fame.</p> <p>A NOTE ON EQUESTRIAN STATUES: It is said if the horse is rearing (both front legs in the air), the rider died in battle; one front leg up means the rider was wounded in battle; and if all four hooves are on the ground, the rider died outside battle. A rider depicted as dismounted and standing next to their horse often indicates that both were killed during battle. According to a survey by the Londonist, of the 15 equestrian statues in central London, nine of them adhered to the rule. Test your knowledge on which ones are correct!</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c46t83CD6lo</p>

	<p>St James's Palace</p>	<p>St James's Palace was commissioned by Henry VIII on the site of a former leper hospital dedicated to Saint James the Less. Construction of the palace, which was intended as a smaller residence for the king to escape formal court life, took place between 1531 and 1536. Some examples include the death of Henry VIII's illegitimate son, Henry Fitzroy in 1536, the signing of the treaty of surrender of Calais by Mary Tudor in 1558, and Elizabeth I staying at the palace during the threat of the Spanish Armada in 1588 before addressing her troops at Tilbury. Additionally, Charles I spent his final night at the palace and took communion here before his execution in the morning.</p> <p>Today, much of the original red-brick building erected by Henry VIII still stands, including the Chapel Royal, the gatehouse, and some turrets, along with two surviving Tudor rooms in the State apartments. St James's Palace is closed to the public, but you can still visit the Chapel Royal</p>	<p>https://www.royal.uk/royal-residences-st-jamess-palace</p>
	<p>The Royal Mews</p>	<p>The current Royal Mews was constructed within the gardens of Buckingham Palace in 1825. It was built shortly after George III acquired Buckingham House in 1762, and a substantial Riding School was established behind the residence. After the redesign of Buckingham Palace, Queen Victoria took residence there in 1837, becoming the first monarch to do so. As a result, the Royal Mews became a significantly more bustling location, transforming into what Elizabeth II referred to as 'a small village that belongs to Buckingham Palace.' During Queen Victoria's reign, a school was established at the Mews, catering to the children of employees.</p> <p>The Royal Mews plays a multifaceted role, serving as a working stable while also housing the royal collection of historic coaches, motor cars, and ornately decorated carriages, including the iconic Gold State Coach.</p> <p>The term 'Mews' derives from the royal hawks that were initially housed at the King's Mews. The term 'mew' refers to the process of moulting, as the birds were kept in a 'mews' while they shed their feathers and were not used for hunting during that time.</p>	<p>https://www.rct.uk/visit/the-royal-mews-buckingham-palace</p>
	<p>Buckingham Palace</p>	<p>Buckingham Palace is an iconic symbol of the British monarchy and a must-visit destination for anyone exploring London. The palace's history dates back to the early 18th century when it was originally known as Buckingham House, a grand townhouse built for the Duke of Buckingham. Over time, the house underwent numerous expansions and renovations, eventually transforming into the magnificent palace we see today. If you choose to visit, you'll learn about the palace's transition from a private residence to the official royal residence in 1837 when Queen Victoria became the first monarch to reside there. If you time it right, you may witness the daily Changing of the Guard ceremony that takes place in front of the palace at 11am.</p> <p>As you explore the State Rooms during the summer opening, you'll see priceless works of art, and extraordinary craftsmanship. The Throne Room, the Grand Staircase, and the Ballroom are just a few of the highlights. It has 775 rooms, 19 staterooms, and 78 bathrooms.</p> <p>During the Second World War, Buckingham Palace endured 7 bombings. King George VI and Queen Elizabeth were filmed inspecting the damage, with Queen Elizabeth expressing her resilience by stating, "'I'm glad we have been bombed. Now I can look the East End in the face,'" to demonstrate unity with those affected.</p>	<p>https://www.rct.uk/visit/buckingham-palace</p>
	<p>Bomber Command Memorial</p>	<p>The Bomber Command Memorial is a tribute to the crews of RAF Bomber Command who served during the Second World War where 55,573 aircrew members from Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and other allied nations lost their lives.</p> <p>Bomber Command was responsible for planning and executing bombing missions against enemy targets, aiming to disrupt German industry, infrastructure, and morale. Bomber Command carried out devastating raids on German cities, industrial sites, and infrastructure throughout the war. In May 1940, the Advanced Air Striking Force faced vulnerability and heavy losses in German attacks during the invasion of France. After the Rotterdam Blitz, RAF Bomber Command was authorized to attack German targets in the Ruhr. Bomber Command lost many aircraft and crew during the Battle of Britain, and their actions indirectly influenced the shift of the Luftwaffe's focus to bombing civilian targets. Initially focused on daytime "'precision'" bombing, Bomber Command switched to night bombing due to heavy losses. However, they faced challenges with night navigation and target-finding, leading to a need for improved navigational aids.</p> <p>After World War II, RAF Bomber Command continued to exist but with a reduced role in the post-war years. It was initially involved in photographic reconnaissance and later served in the Korean War and the Malayan Emergency. In 1968, RAF Bomber Command was merged with RAF Fighter Command and RAF Coastal Command to become the new RAF Strike Command.</p>	<p>https://www.rafbf.org/bomber-command-memorial</p>





	<p>Wellington Arch</p> <p>"Ugly & Completely Disproportionate"!</p>	<p>Wellington Arch was perceived as the unofficial new entrance to London prompting architectural proposals for a grand gateway. A government committee recommended a more ornamental and grander design for the "Green Park Arch" to serve as an outer entrance to the redesigned Buckingham Palace featuring a triumphal arch with elaborate sculptural decoration on top. Despite approval of the arch's construction, by 1828, the project had surpassed its budget, and the Treasury declined to fund the sculpture, leaving the arch structurally complete but lacking its intended ornamentation. Committees formed in the 1830s aimed to establish national memorials for Admiral Nelson and the Duke of Wellington, which resulted in the construction of Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square and a proposed giant equestrian statue of Wellington atop the Green Park Arch. Despite mockery and controversy surrounding the committees decision of the statue, in 1846, the "ugly and completely disproportionate" statue was erected on the arch, leading the government to demand its removal, so awful they thought it! However, an upset Wellington threatened resignation and the government acquiesced! Perhaps because he liked the idea of seeing a statue of himself from his front windows at Apsley House, also known as Number One, London, which you can see on the roundabout. It is worth a visit.</p> <p>By the 1870s, Hyde Park Corner was plagued by traffic congestion, (not much different to today!), prompting the government in 1880 to relocate the Wellington Arch to a new site facing Constitution Hill. The Royal Academy advised the government to seize the opportunity and remove the derided statue and move it to an entirely different county altogether in Aldershot! Following the relocation of the Wellington Arch to today's location, the absence of a statue was remedied in 1891 when the sculptor Adrian Jones exhibited a spectacular suggestion titled 'Triumph' which you can see atop the memorial today!</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0iMBvab2Kc4</p>
	<p>Apsley House</p> <p>The Original Wellington Boot!</p>	<p>Apsley House is an historically significant Georgian building that was the London home of the first Duke of Wellington. It is a great museum and we recommend you add this to your itinerary to visit.</p> <p>Designed and furnished in the neoclassical style Apsley House underwent a significant remodelling for the Duke of Wellington from 1819. It stands as an important survival of a Regency interior and offers a glimpse into the opulent lifestyle of the era, with many period features and furniture on display. The building has changed very little since the Duke's great victory at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. Among its highlights is the State Dining Room located on the first floor, which proudly exhibits the silver Portuguese Service dinnerware gifted by the Portuguese Council in 1816. This impressive collection of silver and silver gilt takes centre stage within the room. Plus you can see examples of the Duke's original 'Wellington' boots in his personal collection!</p>	<p>https://www.wellingtoncollection.co.uk/</p>
	<p>Hyde Park Corner</p> <p>Royal Artillery Memorial</p>	<p>The impressive Royal Artillery Memorial stands as a tribute to the 49,076 soldiers from the Royal Artillery who died during the First World War. It features a substantial base that supports a one-third over-life-size sculpture of a howitzer, inspired by an actual gun in the Imperial War Museum. Positioned at the ends of each arm of the cross-shaped memorial are sculptures representing different soldiers: an officer at the front (south side), a shell carrier on the east side, a driver on the west side, and at the rear (north), a fallen soldier. Adorning the sides of the base are relief sculptures depicting various wartime scenes.</p> <p>This memorial stands out from others of its time due to its realistic depiction, which showcases the howitzer and the deceased soldier in a manner that contrasts with the architectural simplicity and symbolic elements employed by influential war memorials such as the Cenotaph. Upon its unveiling in 1925, the design sparked controversy, with some critics deeming the portrayal of the fallen soldier too graphic and questioning the viability of rendering a howitzer in stone. However, the memorial gained popularity among ex-servicemen and eventually came to be recognised as a masterpiece by Charles Sargeant Jagger and one of Britain's finest war memorials.</p>	<p>https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/london-statures-and-monuments/london-wwi-memorials/</p>
	<p>Hyde Park Corner</p> <p>Australian War Memorial</p>	<p>The design of the Australian Memorial draws inspiration from the topography of Hyde Park Corner. Constructed using green/grey Australian granite, the memorial captures the essence of the Australian bush. Principal architect Peter Tonkin describes the chosen form as reflecting the expansive landscape of Australia, the generosity of its people, and the cultural openness that defines its identity. Additionally, the shape of the memorial wall incorporates elements reminiscent of Australia's distinctive flora and cultural heritage, including the gumleaf and the boomerang.</p> <p>Naming 102,000 Australian war dead of World War I and World War II, the memorial consists of a series of bronze plaques listing the names of 23,844 towns in which Australian war dead had been born, superimposed by 47 battles in which they fought and lost their lives, displayed against a backdrop of Australian red desert soil.</p>	<p>https://www.awmlondon.gov.au/</p>
	<p>Hyde Park Corner</p> <p>Machine Gun Corps Memorial</p>	<p>The Machine Gun Corps Memorial showcases a bronze figure of David, portrayed as a young shepherd boy, to symbolise the importance of the solitary conflict of the machine gunner and with the Vickers gun, highlighting machine guns as modern weaponry. However, it is worth noting that the memorial did generate controversy. Some people interpreted the statue's beauty and the presence of Vickers guns as glorifying war, particularly due to the reference to slaying hundreds and thousands.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3uHUBrYmgo</p>



	<p>Hyde Park Corner</p> <p>New Zealand War Memorial</p>	<p>The New Zealand War Memorial, officially named the Southern Stand, is crafted to mimic the posture of warriors performing a haka, as well as resembling the defensive stroke of a cricket bat or the barrel of a shouldered gun. Additionally, the standards of the memorial have different heights, and their ends are cut off at a diagonal to give the appearance of cross-like grave markers when viewed from a distance.</p> <p>Thousands of soldiers from New Zealand served with the British Army in South Africa during the Boer War, at Gallipoli and on the Western Front during the First World War, and the Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force served in England, the Middle East and Italy in the Second World War.</p>	<p>https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/new-zealand-memorial-london</p>
	<p>Hyde Park</p> <p>Queen Charlotte</p>	<p>Hyde Park is a 350-acre historic Grade I-listed urban park dating back to the 1700s when Queen Caroline, the wife of King George II, played a significant role in shaping the London landscape. It is the largest of the Royal Parks in London and forms part of a chain of parks and green spaces that stretch from Kensington Palace to St James's Park. Hyde Park was the first park to open to the public as early as 1637.</p> <p>One notable feature of Hyde Park is its Rose Garden, which opened in 1994, inspired by the concept of horns sounding one's arrival into Hyde Park from Hyde Park Corner. The central circular area surrounded by a yew hedge represents the mouth of a trumpet or horn, while the seasonal flower beds represent the notes. In full summer bloom, typically in June and July, the Rose Garden becomes a vibrant display of colours and an aromatic delight. Many of the flowers continue to bloom until the first frosts set in.</p> <p>Hyde Park itself dates back to 1637 when it was created as a hunting ground for King Henry VIII. Over the centuries, the park has undergone changes and developments, including the establishment of notable landmarks like the Serpentine, a 40-acre recreational lake created in 1730 at the behest of Queen Caroline.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wBoWbWPwFBI</p>
	<p>Hyde Park</p> <p>Holocaust Memorial</p>	<p>The Holocaust Memorial in Hyde Park was the first public memorial in Great Britain dedicated to the victims of the Holocaust. Located to the east of the Serpentine Lake, the memorial was unveiled in 1983. It features two boulders resting within a gravel bed and surrounded by a copse of silver birch trees. Inscribed in both English and Hebrew, the memorial bears the words, "For these I weep. Streams of tears flow from my eyes because of the destruction of my people", taken from the Book of Lamentations.</p> <p>The design of the memorial was praised by Prof. Thomas Bergenthal, the dean of the Law School of Washington University. He commends the simplicity of the Hyde Park Garden as crucial, suggesting that Holocaust memorials should not become intimidating spaces that people are too fearful to approach. Prof. Bergenthal himself was one of the youngest inmates of Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp.</p>	<p>https://www.royalparks.org.uk/</p>
	<p>Shepherd Market</p> <p>The May Fair</p> <p>Mama's & Papa's</p> <p>Nancy Mitford</p>	<p>Shepherd Market in Mayfair is a charming and historic quarter of London that feels entirely tucked away. If you're not looking, you could miss it entirely! As you walk through its narrow streets, you'll find yourself surrounded by characterful Georgian townhouses, antique book shops, art galleries, and a good choice of cafes, pubs, and restaurants.</p> <p>Shepherd Market was designed by Edward Shepherd in the 18th century. Before its development, the site was a gathering spot for the May Fair, an annual fair that took place between 1686 and 1764. It was here that Edward Shepherd built a number of elegant houses on the open grounds that were once used for the fair, and thereby gave birth to the Mayfair neighbourhood as the city began to expand. In the 1920s, this area was quite dilapidated; however, with its bohemian flair, it became a haven for writers and artists – a reputation it kept until the 1980's, despite it being associated with high-end prostitution. Tragically, two music legends lost their lives at the same flat – 9 Curzon Place. Cass Elliot (Mama Cass) passed away on 28th July 1974. Keith Moon of The Who died four years later on 7th September 1978 in the same flat owned by the singer-songwriter Harry Nilsson!</p> <p>Nancy Mitford, the well-known writer, is commemorated with a blue plaque located at 10 Curzon Street in Mayfair, London. Mitford, who was part of the famous Mitford sisters, is primarily recognised for her novels "The Pursuit of Love" (1945) and "Love in a Cold Climate" (1949). Mitford's association with Mayfair is she once worked at the Heywood Hill Bookshop in this area, a place that had a significant impact on her life and inspired her work.</p> <p>The Mitford family was a fascinating group of six sisters, each with their own intriguing personalities and pursuits. Nancy Mitford, the oldest sister, gained fame as a celebrated novelist and writer. The second sister, Pamela, led a more private life. Diana, the third sister, attracted attention for her association with Sir Oswald Mosley and the British Union of Fascists. Unity, the fourth sister, infamously devoted herself to Adolf Hitler and the Nazi regime. Jessica, also known as Decca, emerged as a prominent figure in communism and journalism. The youngest sister, Deborah became the Duchess of Devonshire at Chatsworth House. The captivating lives and literature of the Mitford sisters - especially Nancy - fascinated the public. Despite following different paths, the Mitfords left an indelible mark on British society through their literary works, political involvements, and unconventional lives.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BnWPl4q9DCA</p>

	<p>Canada Memorial</p>	<p>The Canadian Memorial represents the united efforts of Britain and Canada during World Wars I and II. This remarkable sculpture is cleverly designed, featuring an inclined structure adorned with 506 bronze maple leaves and the flow of water that cascades across its sloping surface gives the impression that the bronze maple leaves are gracefully floating along with the gentle current.</p> <p>Green Park was originally a royal hunting ground. Charles I (1600 –1649) constructed an eight-mile-long brick wall around the park and introduced approximately 2,000 deer, enclosing it as a royal hunting ground. After the Restoration, Charles II transformed it into a deer park and built ice houses in the area.</p>	<p>https://veterans.gc.ca/en/remembrance/memorials/green-park</p>
	<p>Horse Guards Parade The Beheading Clock The Regent's 'Bum'</p>	<p>Formerly this was the site of the Palace of Whitehall's 'tiltyard' - a courtyard for jousting tournaments - during the time of Henry VIII. Later becoming an important location for royal and public ceremonies, including Trooping the Colour and the Beating Retreat. Trooping the Colour is a British military parade and ceremony that takes place annually in June to celebrate the official birthday of the monarch. Beating Retreat involves massed military bands and spectacular fireworks for which you can purchase tickets.</p> <p>Standing before the Horse Guards archway, you'll find an array of captivating military monuments and trophies encircling the parade ground:</p> <p>Turning your attention eastward, you'll see the attractive Cádiz Memorial, nicknamed the "Prince Regent's Bomb," is a French mortar from the early 19th century. This monument was often depicted in satirical cartoons, as its name, pronounced "bum," humorously connected it to the extravagance of the Prince Regent's ample posterior. It is very ornate Turkish cannon captured in Egypt in 1801 symbolising the lifting of the Siege of Cádiz in Spain in 1812. To the south, statues of Field Marshal Kitchener and Admiral of the Fleet Mountbatten.</p> <p>In addition, an intriguing detail awaits your discovery: the double-sided clock overlooking the Parade Ground features a black background behind the number 2, believed to commemorate the time of the beheading of Charles I, the last absolute monarch of England, at Banqueting House.</p> <p>With your back to the archway and adjacent to St James's Park, stands the impressive Guards Memorial, a tribute to the First Battle of Ypres and other World War I battles.</p> <p>On the northern side, the Royal Naval Division War Memorial commemorates sailors of the Royal Navy during wartime. Shaped like an obelisk, the design was created by Sir Edwin Lutyens and was unveiled on April 25, 1925, exactly ten years after the Gallipoli landings in which the division sustained significant losses.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lT_KFgU2sms</p>
	<p>Banqueting House Peter Paul Rubens Charles I Execution</p>	<p>The Banqueting House in Whitehall is renowned for being the site where King Charles I was executed, and it stands as the sole surviving remnant of the illustrious 16th-century royal Palace of Whitehall.</p> <p>The history of the Banqueting House dates back to 1530 when it came under Henry VIII's royal ownership following Cardinal Wolsey's fall from power, subsequently becoming a residence for the Tudor and Stuart courts. The opulent Banqueting House, constructed in 1622 during James I's reign, garnered widespread admiration and was initially intended for state gatherings. Following the addition of magnificent ceiling panels by Rubens, it evolved into a reception venue for welcoming foreign dignitaries. Oddly, the Banqueting House became known for hosting the peculiar royal healing ritual, where Stuart monarchs claimed to cure individuals afflicted with a skin condition known as 'the King's Evil.'</p> <p>On January 30, 1649, it became the site of a profoundly significant event in British history as King Charles I was beheaded on the Banqueting House balcony, which still stands as a visible reminder today. Can you spot the small bust of Charles I on the outside? Don't miss the opportunity to see the exquisite Rubens ceiling, likely painted by the artist between 1629-30.</p>	<p>https://www.hrp.org.uk/banqueting-house/#gs.94q0pn</p>

	<p>Downing Street</p>	<p>In its original form, 10 Downing Street consisted of three properties: A mansion overlooking St James's Park known as "the House at the Back," a town house, and a cottage. The town house was built by George Downing, a notorious spy for Oliver Cromwell, between 1682 and 1684. In 1733, the "House at the Back" reverted to the Crown, and George II offered it to Robert Walpole, who became England's first 'Prime Minister', as a gift for his service. Over the years, Number 10 faced structural issues, being built on soft soil with a shallow foundation, leading to frequent repairs. During World War II, the Prime Minister abandoned it and used a flat in the Foreign Office, known as the No.10 Annexe, which was situated above the extensive underground bunker used by Winston Churchill.</p> <p>The building's early security measures were two police officers stationed outside and inside. Later, during Thatcher's premiership, terrorist threats necessitated increased security. In 1991, the Provisional IRA launched a mortar shell at the residence. The original black oak door was replaced by a blast-proof steel one. Regularly removed for refurbishment and replaced with a replica, it is so heavy that it takes eight men to lift it. The original door is displayed at the Churchill Museum at the Cabinet War Rooms.</p> <p>The building's distinctive and elegant door served as a backdrop for historic announcements, and prime ministers with their distinguished guests at this shiny centrepiece became a common sight, symbolising significant events and meetings.</p> <p>In 1913, suffragettes posed in front of the door when petitioning for women's rights, creating an iconic image that circulated globally. Similarly, the photograph of Mahatma Gandhi leaving Number 10 after discussing India's independence with the Prime Minister became renowned, especially in India, Neville Chamberlain's proclamation of "Peace with Honour" in 1938 and Churchill's confident gestures of victory during World War II.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xzlg59z5Xas</p>
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OFF THE TRAIL MUST SEE

	<p>The British Museum</p>	<p>Opened in 1759, it's one of the world's oldest public museums and home to over 8 million artifacts. The Rosetta Stone, key to deciphering Egyptian hieroglyphs, is one of its most famous treasures. Entry is free, making it a favorite spot for history and culture. The atrium is worth seeing.</p>	<p>https://www.britishmuseum.org/</p>
	<p>The Globe Theatre</p>	<p>A faithful reconstruction of Shakespeare's original 1599 theater, destroyed by fire in 1613. Performances today aim to replicate the experience of the Elizabethan era. Its open-air design lets you enjoy plays as they were originally staged, often standing just like the "groundlings" did.</p>	<p>https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/</p>
	<p>Victoria & Albert Museum</p>	<p>Opened in 1852, it's named after Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. It features 2.3 million objects celebrating art, design, and fashion across 5,000 years. Its exhibits range from medieval armor to modern couture.</p>	<p>https://www.vam.ac.uk/</p>
	<p>The Tate Modern</p>	<p>Housed in a former power station, this museum opened in 2000 and showcases modern and contemporary art. It's home to works by Picasso, Warhol, and Rothko, among others. The Turbine Hall frequently hosts monumental installations that amaze visitors.</p>	<p>https://www.tate.org.uk/visit/tate-modern</p>

	<p>National Gallery</p>	<p>The Nation's Gallery. The story of European art, masterpiece by masterpiece. It also has an excellent restaurant overlooking Trafalgar Square.</p>	<p>https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/</p>
	<p>The Royal Observatory</p>	<p>Established in 1675, it's the birthplace of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) and the Prime Meridian. You can stand with one foot in the Eastern Hemisphere and the other in the Western Hemisphere. It played a key role in maritime navigation and the development of timekeeping.</p>	<p>https://www.rmg.co.uk/royal-observatory</p>
	<p>Fortnum and Mason</p>	<p>Established in 1707, it's one of the most iconic luxury department stores in the world. Famous for its afternoon teas and beautifully packaged hampers, it has supplied goods to British royalty for centuries. The clock outside chimes every 15 minutes, with figurines of Mr. Fortnum and Mr. Mason bowing to each other.</p>	<p>https://www.fortnumandmason.com/</p>
	<p>Covent Garden</p>	<p>Originally a 17th-century fruit and vegetable market, Covent Garden is now a vibrant hub for shopping, dining, and entertainment. It's famous for its street performers, historic architecture, and the iconic Market Building with its boutique shops and cafes. The area is home to landmarks like the Royal Opera House and the London Transport Museum.</p>	<p>https://www.coventgarden.london/</p>