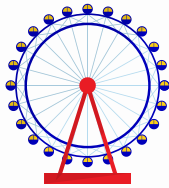


# London landmarks

**These landmarks are not just tourist attractions—they are part of London's identity. Each one represents a different period in the city's history, from the Victorian engineering of Tower Bridge to the modern innovation of the London Eye. Together, they create a city landscape that is both historic and modern, traditional and creative.**

**Let's find out some interesting facts about them!**

## London Eye



The London Eye is a giant observation wheel on the South Bank of the River Thames, which was completed and opened to the public in 2000. It was constructed as a landmark to celebrate the new millennium and to give visitors a modern viewpoint over the city. Even though it was only meant to be up for five years, it was so popular that it was made a permanent addition to London's iconic skyline. Standing about 135m tall in a fairly flat city, it is visible from many surprising parts of it. A ride or a "flight", as it is called here, in one of the wheel's 32 glass-enclosed pods holding up to 28 people takes roughly 30 minutes and attracts 3.5 million visitors annually. From inside a capsule you have a panoramic view of London's major landmarks such as St. Paul's Cathedral, the Houses of Parliament, and the Shard.

**For more information visit:**  
<https://www.londoneye.com/>



## Tower Bridge

With its two massive Gothic stone towers and bright blue suspension parts, Tower Bridge is one of the most photographed places in London. Built in 1894 was a major engineering project of the Victorian period as well as a much-needed crossing point in the east. It was equipped with a then revolutionary mechanism that could clear the way for oncoming ships in three minutes. Although London's days as a thriving port are long over, the bridge still lifts around 1000 times a year and as often as 10 times a day in summer. It's fascinating to get inside the bridge, take the lift to the top of the structure, 42 m above the river and walk across the high-level glass walkway which offers a breathtaking view of the river below. A truly unforgettable experience—especially if you're brave enough to look down!

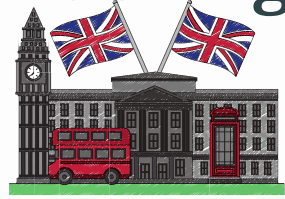
For more information visit:  
<https://www.towerbridge.org.uk/>

**Gothic: a style of architecture of old buildings that look impressive and tall with high thin-pointed towers and colourful windows.**





# Buckingham Palace

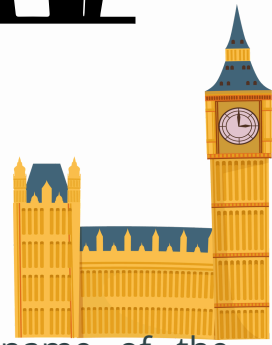


Buckingham Palace is the official London residence of the British monarch and one of the city's most prestigious and historic buildings. It has been the royal family's London home since 1837, although the original house was built in 1703 for the Duke of the same name. The palace is extremely impressive, with more than 775 rooms, including offices, state rooms, a private cinema and even a post office. The front is dominated by a long driveway and a famous balcony where the Royal Family appears during public events. One interesting detail is the flag that flies above the palace. If it's raised, it means the King is currently inside. The palace's most famous attraction is The Changing of the Guard: a formal ceremony, accompanied by music, in which the soldiers who protect Buckingham Palace are replaced by a new group of guards. The guards wear distinctive red tunics and bearskin hats which are recognised as symbols of British ceremonial heritage and cheered by hundreds of tourists every day.

For more information visit:  
<https://tinyurl.com/mr3th64d>

# Big Ben

Big Ben is one of London's most recognisable symbols. Many people don't realise that



"Big Ben" is actually the name of the massive bell inside the tower, while the tower itself was officially named Elizabeth Tower in 2012 in order to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The Gothic Clock Tower is part of the Houses of Parliament, where England's political parties meet to discuss and solve the country's problems. Completed in 1859, the tower has survived fires, storms and even bombings during World War II. Today, it plays an important role: it keeps the official time of the UK. Its deep, powerful chimes are broadcast on radio and TV during national celebrations. From the outside, the tower looks striking with its golden details and four enormous clock faces that light up after dark. The clock mechanism is so precise that even minor changes in weather can influence how it works. You can actually see the inner workings of the clock mechanism if you go on the guided tour of the Elizabeth Tower which takes you up a narrow 334-step spiral stairwell to the belfry at a height of 96 metres where the Great Bell hangs.

For more information visit:  
<https://www.parliament.uk/bigben/>

Adapted from *London*, Lonely Planet.

