

# London Tour

This tour is unique to **betheltours**, the notes should be kept confidential and are for your own use only. You may make a single personal copy of these notes in any format that works best for you.

**Time and Place:** The notes are divided into key zones or routes. Not all of these will be used on every trip. Please become familiar with the notes and remain alert to your current location and direction of travel so that you can start talking about points of interest in good time and not when you need to rush or after already passing.

**Style:** We encourage an enthusiastic, friendly and chatty style and the use of humour to keep your tour fun and enjoyable, but the best humour comes naturally and spontaneously, so the notes just present facts for you to use, and leave the style up to you!

These notes are a guide to get you started but you may add or adapt these notes. You will be naturally more enthusiastic and engaging when you talk about things that interest you or which you have found for yourself. Please be sure that you carefully fact-check any new information or points of interest that you add to these notes. Please also be careful to avoid anything that may be sensitive or cause offence.

**These notes only include information for the tour commentary. Safety notes and other announcements are supplied separately.**

## WELCOME TO LONDON

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At one time the largest city in the world, and still one of the greatest!

**Time** is measured from here, the Prime Meridian runs through Greenwich and is the point at which Greenwich Mean Time is measured ... the rest of the world measures their time against ours, up to twelve hours back and up to twelve hours forward.

The City of London is also, arguably, the most important centre of **commerce, banking and trading** in the world.

London's **Parliament** is one of the oldest in the world and has been called, subject to much debate, the Mother of all Parliaments.

Today, over 300 languages spoken in London! It has 2000 years of history, 3000 acres of parkland, 300 miles of tunnels, more royal palaces than most other cities of its size and one of the most famous rivers in the world ... we'll be taking to the river by boat later this weekend.

## FROM NORTH LONDON TO BAKER STREET

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### FINCHLEY ROAD

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(leads to Finchley, about 5 miles North) "-ley" means clearing or opening in woodland and "Finch" could refer either to the bird, or a man of that name. Either way, this would have been Finch's Clearing - a quiet, shady spot in the middle of lazy English woodland. Can you hear the birds singing now?

### HAMPSTEAD

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Means homestead. The grounds of a 13th century villa with a fashionable spa using the medicinal springs that come up naturally from the ground around Hampstead Heath. Even today people still bathe in the swimming ponds on Hampstead Heath.

In the past was the home of:

Artists: John Constable and William Hogarth

Poets: John Keats

Writers: D H Lawrence and J B Priestley

Many of them frequented a famous pub called The Old Bull and Bush. Still open today - and very reasonably priced!



### SWISS COTTAGE

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The original Swiss Cottage was the dairy building of a nearby farmhouse when this whole area was still fields and countryside. Later the building became a restaurant but was demolished in the 1960s. The public house next door, which was first built in 1804 and known as the Swiss Tavern, was rebuilt and restyled in a Swiss chalet style and changed its name to Ye Olde Swiss Cottage.

### TUBE

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Swiss Cottage is also the name of the nearby Tube station. In 1863, when they first intended to dig the underground, a preacher called Dr Cummins said that digging that deep would be digging into Hell and it shouldn't be done! It seems he may have been right! In 1887, after his first journey on the underground, author R D Blumenfeld described it as his first experience of Hades. He wrote: "The atmosphere was a mixture of sulphur, coal dust and foul fumes so that, by the time we reached Moorgate Street, I was near dead of asphyxiation and heat. These underground railways are a menace to health."

Believe it or not, for the first twenty five years the tube trains were steam trains. Vents in the road allowed the fumes to escape, but the railway companies told people that the smoke and steam were good for them! From 1890 onwards, the trains were electric, and the law said that you could be fined £2 for riding on the

roof of a train. Of course, that was only if you weren't electrocuted or got your head knocked off as the train entered the tunnel!

## ST JOHN'S WOOD

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Was once part of the Great Forest of Middlesex. It gained its name when the medieval Knights of the Order of St John of Jerusalem took over the land from the Knights Templar in 1323. By the end of the 17th century, most of the trees had been felled and the land was used for agricultural uses. This continued until the beginning of the 19th century when residential development began. It was the first area of London to abandon the idea of terraced houses for semi-detached villas surrounded by large gardens and tree-lined avenues and it soon attracted many artists, authors, philosophers, scientists, craftsmen and merchants, giving the area its village-like atmosphere which survives to this day. It's also the famous home of the Abbey Road studios, where the Beatles recorded most of their albums and posed for the famous zebra crossing photo that appears on their eleventh studio album, the Abbey Road album.

## LORDS CRICKET GROUND

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The spiritual HQ of cricket! Home of The Ashes. The Ashes are a prize regarded as the top prize in international cricket; they're actually the ashes of the bails used in a big 1882 match (at the Oval) between Australia and England. England lost to Australia for the first time ever, they played so badly that many people said it was the death of English cricket. The bails were

cremated and the ashes placed in a tiny little urn which is now the prize they bitterly battle for.

As we pass you will see what looks like a big UFO hovering over the ground, that's the media centre and it cost £5.8 million to build. It was built and fitted out in two boatyards using boat-building technology. The lower tier holds over 100 journalists while the upper tier contains the radio and TV commentary boxes.



## ISLAMIC CULTURAL CENTRE AND LONDON CENTRAL MOSQUE

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The Cultural Centre was originally opened by King George VI in 1944 and gifted by him to the British Muslim community who today number nearly 1.5 million in London alone.

The Central Mosque was added in the 1970s and is capable of holding over 5000 worshippers at one time.



## REGENTS PARK

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To our left, just beyond the row of houses, is Regents Park which covers an area of 550 acres. It used to be a hunting forest and was originally the property of the Catholic Church. It was confiscated by Henry VIII. Then the Prince Regent (later King George IV) wanted to link the park with Westminster as part of a great construction project. He demolished a large area of houses and shops, making many of the poor people homeless, and then set about building a link-road called Regent Street, other streets including Portland Place and Park Crescent, as well as many large houses around the perimeter of the park that the poor (and now homeless) people could never afford.

## REGENTS CANAL

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Originally designed to run through the centre of the park but the plans were changed to set the canal along the edge of the park so that the foul language of the boatmen would not offend the ladies walking in the park. It's linked to the national canal system and so, in theory, you could take a canal boat from here right the way back to somewhere near where your journey started this weekend.

## BAKER STREET

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On the right you may just spot 221b Baker Street with a policeman stood at the door. Who lived there? Sherlock Holmes and Dr John H Watson. But look closely and you will see that the doors on either side of 221b are 237 and 241. Actually, 221b never existed outside of the writings of Arthur Conan Doyle, and the real 221 would have been where the new block of luxury apartments, Park View Residence, now stand!



## FROM BAKER STREET TO BRITISH MUSEUM

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### MADAM TUSSAUDS

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Madame Tussaud made death masks of famous people killed on the guillotine during the French Revolution including Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette. When she came to London she exhibited her work in the Lyceum Theatre. After the Napoleonic Wars she couldn't go back to France and so she started to travel

around Britain and Ireland with her collection of 35 waxworks before eventually setting up a permanent exhibition in Baker Street.

Charles Dickens said it was "more than an exhibition, an institution with celebrities strictly up-to-date, continuously added to."

The Duke of Wellington regularly visited the Chamber of Horrors.

Right up until 2011, there was no official branch of Madame Tussaud's in Blackpool. Her great-grandson Louis Tussaud opened his own, completely separate exhibition there. But in 2011, Merlin Entertainment Group who now own Madame Tussaud's, also bought Blackpool Tower and Louis Tussaud and have reopened it as an official branch of Madame Tussaud's.

Merlin, a British success story! The company based in Poole, Dorset, owns: Madame Tussauds, Alton Towers, Thorpe Park, Legoland, Warwick Castle, Chessington World of Adventures, London Eye, London Aquarium, The Dungeons, The Sealife Centres, Seal Sanctuaries, Blackpool Tower & Circus ... just in this country! Worldwide they own 623 theme parks and attractions and are second only in size to Walt Disney Parks and Resorts!

### HARLEY STREET

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On the right is the famous Harley Street. The whole street is owned by the de Walden family, who are also the heirs to the Portland estate. In 1860 there were just 20 doctors on this street, by 1914 this had risen to 1,500, and today there are over 3,000 people employed in the Harley Street area in clinics, medical practices and hospitals.

### BT TOWER

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When it was completed, in 1965, it was the tallest building in Britain and it held the title until 1980 when the Natwest Tower was completed. On the 34th floor the "Top of the Tower" revolving restaurant was run by Butlins until it closed in 1980 for security reasons. The 360° full-colour LED screen around the top of the tower is the largest in the world at 3000 sq ft.



### BRITISH MUSEUM

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Scientist Sir Hans Sloane was a British naturalist who lived 1660-1753. He was president of the Royal Society after Sir Isaac Newton and Sloane Square is named after him. By the time of his death his house was bursting with his collections of natural history specimens and books, and they were bought by the

British Government to form the beginning of the collections of the British Museum.

The building was started in 1823. Its collections belong to the nation, and admission has always been free and open to anyone who is "studious and curious" ... does that describe us?

In the 1880s, the Natural History collections were moved to a new building in South Kensington which later became the Natural History Museum which we will be visiting tomorrow.

The collection of books were housed for many years in temporary buildings in the middle of the museum surrounding a central circular reading room but, in the 1990s, these were moved to a new building which is now called the British Library.

The space created by the removal of the temporary buildings that housed these books was turned into the Great Court which was opened in the year 2000.

The circular reading room still stands in the centre of the Great Court but the whole court has been completely rebuilt, clad in beautiful Portland stone, the "ground level" is one storey higher than it used to be, allowing for an Education Centre to be built beneath and the Great Court is covered by an enormous glass dome. The dome is formed of 3,312 individual glass triangles which appear all the same at first but actually there are no two triangles exactly alike in the whole roof.



# FROM BRITISH MUSEUM TO NORTH LONDON

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## BLOOMSBURY

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The earliest record of what would become Bloomsbury is in the Domesday Book of 1086 which says that the area had vineyards and “wood for 100 pigs”. From the 14th century the area was owned by the Carthusian monks until the dissolution of the monasteries in the 16th century when Henry VIII reclaimed the land.

It was one of the first areas of London to be arranged around a series of squares with parallel streets as far back as 1660, although it was mainly built up in the 18th Century when London was being rebuilt after the Great Fire. The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood was based here, as well as Thomas Cook’s first office which opened in 1862.

## TAVISTOCK SQUARE

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The headquarters of the British Medical Association stand on the site where Tavistock House stood - Charles Dickens lived here. A bus stop just in front of the BMA building was the scene of the 7/7 suicide bombing of a London bus in 2005.

Other famous residents of the area have included: Virginia Woolfe, Charles Darwin, Charles Dickens, J M Barrie (author of Peter Pan) and more recently Bob Marley, Ricky Gervais and Catherine Tate.

## EUSTON ROAD

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London’s first bypass, built in 1756 and intended for sheep and cows! It was the major route along which flocks and herds would be driven to Smithfield Market. The entire length of the road was dug up to lay the Metropolitan line of the underground using the “cut and cover” technique which was employed before the really deep underground tunnels were built. Today it is home to three major railway stations: Kings Cross, Euston and St Pancras International, the Eurostar terminal.

## EUSTON STATION

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The oldest inter-city railway station in London, opened in 1837 as the terminus of the London to Birmingham line. Very little of the original station exists now as it was replaced in the 1960s with a new station described as “hideous”, “a dingy, grey, horizontal nothingness”, “one of the nastiest concrete boxes in London ... The design should never have left the drawing board - if, indeed, it was ever on a drawing board. It gives the impression of having been scribbled on the back of a soiled paper bag by a thuggish android with a grudge against humanity and a vampire-like loathing of sunlight.” So it was popular then!

It was the hideousness of Euston station that prompted campaigners to save St Pancras station and ensure it was fully restored in its Victorian gothic style.

## CAMDEN TOWN

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Has been an Irish community in this part of the city for many years, but now very multi-cultural. Nearest Kingdom Hall to the centre of London ... attended by many visitors to London because of it’s location. Around 50% of the congregation changes every few months as it is made up of South African, New Zealand and Australian backpackers just passing through!



A very rich and powerful royal Sheikh from one of the Arab countries once tried to attend a meeting at this Kingdom Hall with his children but because there was only one way out of the street his security personnel wouldn’t allow him to and whisked him away again!

There used to be a big pet shop in Camden that had a unique way of deterring burglars in the night-time ... they let loose 2 boa constrictors every night!

Regularly 10,000+ people in the streets. Like a “human zoo!”

A major fire on 9th February 2008 burnt down most of Camden Canal Market, but it has now been rebuilt as Camden Lock Village, bigger and better and busier than ever.

Can see where Gilgamesh went for dinner on the left! Also:

- Giant native american
- Two giant robots
- Giant horses



Point out Camden Roundhouse - location of the BBC Electric Proms and the iTunes Festival.

Notable Residents of Camden Town: Alan Bennett, Orlando Bloom, Morrissey, N-Dubz, Amy Winhouse

## PRIMROSE HILL

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A very fashionable area of London, a 200 foot high hill offering one of the best views across central London, often appears in films and TV programs, made famous by the Beatles song “Fool on the Hill” and in HG Wells novel “War of the Worlds” it was where the martians intended to land and make it their HQ for world domination.

Very popular area for famous people, in fact probably more famous people per square mile here than anywhere else in London! Just a few of the current and former famous residents are:

Enrique Iglesias	Helena Bonham Carter	Jamie Oliver
Jeremy Clarkson	Jude Law	John Cleese
Kate Moss	Nick Grimshaw (Radio 1)	Robert Plant
Sadie Frost	Sienna Miller	Simon Callow (actor)
Sophie Ellis Bextor	Tim Burton	

# FROM BAKER STREET TO BUCKINGHAM PALACE

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## BAKER STREET (LOWER END)

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Was the home of the Headquarters of the Special Operations Executive ... also known as Churchill's Secret Army. It operated in all countries occupied or attacked by the Axis forces in World War 2 and, at its peak, directly employed or controlled 13,000 people and supported or supplied about 1 million operatives worldwide! In 1946 it was dissolved, most returning to their civilian employment, but 280 personnel were taken into the Special Operations Branch of MI6.

## OXFORD STREET

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Selfridges, second largest shop in the UK (after Harrods) opened in 1909. The first store to coin the phrase "the customer is always right." Also hosted the first public demonstration of television by John Logie Baird in April 1925.

HMV - opened by the composer Elgar in 1921 and the Beatles recorded here.

Primark - when opened, it was the biggest in the country. Queues of 45 minutes at the tills. (Biggest Primark is now in Birmingham)



## MARBLE ARCH

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We are now approaching Marble Arch, made of marble from the same quarry used by Michelangelo. The design was taken from the triumphal arch of Constantine in Rome and it was originally the grand entrance to Buckingham Palace, but when the Palace was extended, there was no room for it so it was moved here in 1851.

## SPEAKERS' CORNER

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Here we see evidence of the fulfilment of another prophecy, that of the feet of iron and clay in the immense image. People still gather today at what is known as Speakers' Corner. On Sunday afternoons, even now, speakers and hecklers assemble to debate a variety of topics. Some famous people who have given talks here include Karl Marx, Lenin, William Morris, George Orwell and the Pankhursts who campaigned for votes for women. Discussions range from the state of declining moral standards in the world to football.

## ANIMALS IN WAR

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Commemorates all the animals killed in war. The subtitle reads: They Had No Choice. Two mules, a horse and a dog together with lists of the numbers of animals lost in conflicts ... especially recognizes dogs used to clear mines and similar dangerous jobs.



## TYBURN

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By the way, where Marble Arch now stands was known as Tyburn, the site of three-legged gallows, a place of public execution, where crowds gathered to witness the gruesome sight of people being hanged for theft or murder. It wasn't all bad news on a hanging day ... it was a public holiday and the condemned person was given a free mug of ale from a nearby inn! The executioner used to sell the used rope at 6d an inch and it's suggested that this is where the saying "Money for old rope" originates.

Other public executions took place at St Paul's Cathedral on the other side of the city centre; those were the religious ones, like when someone owned an English bible, they would be burned at the stake for it (late 1300s).

## PARK LANE

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This road is of course Park Lane and the district to our left is Mayfair ... the two most expensive squares on the Monopoly board!



## HYDE PARK CORNER / APSLEY HOUSE

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It was known as Number One London because it was the first house you came to after passing through the toll gate as you entered London. So far, we have escaped all tolls, congestion charges, parking fines, bus lane infringement charges, low emission zone charges, jaywalking fines and on-the-spot fines!

It is the home of the Duke of Wellington and houses some of the finest paintings and works of art and furniture in the country, many of which were given to the Duke as gifts by rulers of other lands.

## WELLINGTON ARCH

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Was first conceived as the gateway to Constitution Hill and was just called Constitution Arch. It was planned at the same time as Marble Arch and a major refurbishment of Buckingham Palace in 1825 by King George IV. Due to an overspend on Buckingham Palace it had to be simplified so what we see today is



not even as grand as it was meant to be!

In 1846, it was chosen as an appropriate location for a monument to Wellington which was placed on top of the Arch and became the largest equestrian figure ever made.

In 1882, the arch was moved from its original position and the statue was removed and taken to Aldershot.

In 1912, the current statue was installed and it depicts the Angel of Peace descending on the Chariot of War. It is the largest bronze sculpture in Europe.

The Arch is hollow and once housed the 2nd smallest police station in Britain until it was closed in 1992. It is now owned by English Heritage and houses 3 floors of exhibits in one side of the Arch. You can sometimes see people standing on the balconies at the top enjoying the views.

One side of the Arch is actually a ventilation shaft for the London Underground and you can sometimes see steam rising from it!

## **BUCKINGHAM PALACE**

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Passing the bottom of the back garden. Buckingham House was built in 1705 for the first Duke of Buckingham. It was acquired by George III in 1762 as somewhere to get away from the Royal Palace ... which was next door at St James Palace in Pall Mall!

George IV commissioned John Nash to enlarge the house into a palace but he died before he saw it completed, as did his brother William IV.

Queen Victoria was the first to use it as an official residence.

The Palace was built around three sides of a courtyard with Marble Arch as a gateway to the central courtyard. In 1847, Edward Blore removed Marble Arch and built the East Front across the fourth side enclosing the courtyard to face down the Mall, and that's the side of the Palace we are now most familiar with. When we get there, if you look closely, you will see the difference between the white stone of the East Front and the older, more yellowy stone of the other three sides of the Palace.



## **VICTORIA MONUMENT**

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Victoria faces down the Mall; to her left, facing Green Park, is the Angel of Justice carrying a sword but with a caring hand extended to an oppressed child; to her right, facing away from Green Park, is the Angel of Truth treading on a serpent; behind Victoria, facing the Palace, is a symbol of Motherhood; and right on the top, the gold statue is the Angel of Victory flanked by two characters representing Constancy and Courage.

Around the stone and gold monument are bronze statues representing Naval and Military Power and Science and Art. Two, standing next to lions, represent Peace holding up an olive branch and Progress holding up a

laurel branch. Also standing with lions are two figures representing Agriculture and Manufacture. The base of the monument has friezes depicting sea nymphs, sea horses, mer-men, fish and sea monsters, recognising Britain's great naval power.

## **FLAGS**

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Until 1997, the only flag to fly above the palace was the Royal Standard. But ... the Royal Standard can only be flown when the monarch is present and it can never be flown at half-mast. When a monarch dies, the Royal Standard is lowered fully and the Standard of the next highest ranking member of the Royal Family who is present at the Palace is raised in its place.

Most people not being aware of these traditions, there was public outcry after the death of Diana because there was no flag flying at half mast. The Queen gave permission for the Union Jack to fly when she is not at home and it may be flown at half mast.

# FROM BUCKINGHAM PALACE TO COVENT GARDEN

## BIRDCAGE WALK

The Queen's collection of exotic birds were kept in the park. Story of Russian pelicans.

## WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

This is the Catholic equivalent of Westminster Abbey; its notable for the stone carvings and art which is by famous artist Eric Gill, in the Art Deco style.

## WESTMINSTER

By 1042, the City of London was already a busy commercial port. King Edward the Confessor wanted to build a church so grand that it would outshine all other - but he wanted to separate it from the secular commercial city.

He built this new church - or Minster - to the West of the city of London ... hence Westminster.

He allocated a tenth of his wealth to the building work and he moved into a splendid palace next door so that he could supervise the project. From that point on, Westminster became the centre of Royal and Religious justice and government while the City of London continued as the great commercial centre.

Today, these are still two separate cities, the City of London is just 1 square mile and is the financial district, while the city of Westminster is where we are now and is mostly owned by the Duke of Westminster ... the Grosvenor family of Chester.



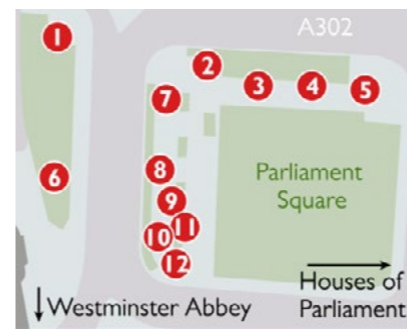
## METHODIST CENTRAL HALL

The first ever meeting of the United Nations General Assembly was held here in 1946. It has also been regularly used for political rallies including some famous speakers like Mohandas Gandhi, Martin Luther King and Winston Churchill ... a reminder of another aspect of the Revelation prophecy. The harlot who rides on the back of the scarlet-coloured wild beast represents the world empire of false religion, Babylon the Great. She commits fornication with the kings of the earth by confusing religion and politics, exercising an unholy influence over world governments and being involved in every major world conflict.

## WESTMINSTER ABBEY

More evidence of this unholy alliance is evident in the Abbey, one of the most notable religious buildings in Britain, but it has been the site of all royal coronations except one since 1066. By law, all royalty in Britain must be Protestant not Catholic, ever since Mary I earned her nickname "Bloody Mary" by being the most blood-thirsty monarch Britain had ever known ... during her reign in the middle of the 16th century, she had 300 persons burned at the stake for opposing the Popes teaching.

Many famous men and women are buried in the Abbey, including Isaac Newton. Buried standing upright so they can fit more people in. Also Britain's oldest man, Tom Parr, a farmer from Shropshire who married his second wife when he was 122 and, when he was 152, he came to see the King and died of excitement!



### Parliament Square statues

- |                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1 George Canning  | 7 Edward Smith-Stanley |
| 2 Palmerston      | 8 Disraeli             |
| 3 Jan Smuts       | 9 Gandhi               |
| 4 Lloyd George    | 10 Robert Peel         |
| 5 Churchill       | 11 Fawcett             |
| 6 Abraham Lincoln | 12 Mandela             |

## PARLIAMENT SQUARE

Britain's first official roundabout, the site of almost constant protests these days. Further evidence of the mixing of iron and clay. Winston Churchill's statue is the only electrified statue in London, to stop the pigeons landing on his head!

## THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

The magnificent Gothic Revival masterpiece you see today is not actually as old as it appears. It was built between 1840 and 1888. It covers 8 acres, has 11 courtyards, 100 staircases and 1100 apartments.

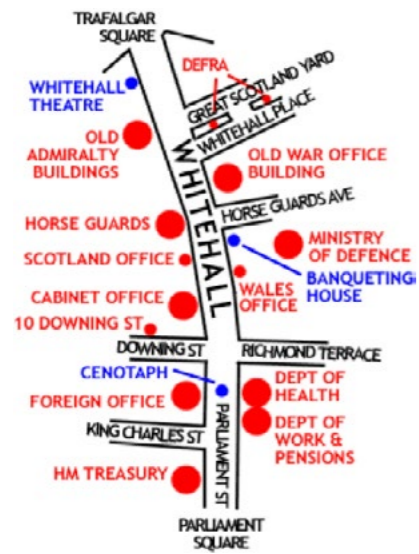
What do you know about Big Ben? It's not actually the tower, but the thirteen ton bell inside the tower. The tower used to be called simply Clock Tower, although Victorian journalists often referred to it as St Stephen's Tower. In 2012, to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee, it was renamed Elizabeth Tower.

There are actually 5 bells in the tower. Big Ben chimes the hour, but the other four make the tune that comes just before it ... there are words to that tune! All through this hour, Lord be my guide, that by thy pow'r, no foot shall slide. On the clockface, each minute is one foot across, and the minute hand is 14 feet long!

## PORTCULLIS HOUSE

Cost £235 million of taxpayers money to build, making it, per square foot, the most expensive office block in Britain. It is bronze clad, it houses conference facilities and offices for 200 MPs, it has padded lifts and a glass-topped atrium in the centre holds cafes, fig trees, fountains and water features.





## WHITEHALL

Named after the vast palace that once stood here and was the main residence of the English monarchs between 1530 and 1698.

## CENOTAPH

In the middle of the road. Commemorates the two world wars and other conflicts. It was designed by Sir Edward Lutyens, probably the best English architect ever. Greek Kenos = Empty Taphos = Tomb, designed using the Greek principle of Entasis where everything looks like straight lines but is actually slightly curved, if you were to follow the curves, they all intersect at a point exactly 1000 feet above the cenotaph and 1000

feet below the cenotaph.

## DOWNING STREET

was built in 1683-86 by Sir George Downing. It has been home to the Prime Minister since 1735. Although it looks like just a terraced house, it actually opens up into a large villa behind with 160 rooms. There's no key for the famous black door and it can't be opened from the outside and so there always has to be someone in to open the door.

## BLACK BRONZE MEMORIAL

in memory of the role of women in World War II, only unveiled in 2005.

## BANQUETING HOUSE

The only integral building of the original Palace of Whitehall still standing is Banqueting House, built by Inigo Jones in 1622. Other smaller parts of the palace still exist but have been incorporated into other buildings, including a tower built into the Old Treasury and Cabinet Office. It was the largest palace in Europe, larger than Versailles or the Vatican, and had 1,500 rooms. Built over a long period of time and in many different styles, it looked more like a small town than a single palace! It was destroyed in 1698 by a devastating fire.

## HORSE GUARDS

Two mounted troops from the Life Guard or the Blues and Royals. A lot of people wait here to see the Changing of the Guard which happens every other day at 11am, and once a year the Trooping of the Colour is held on the huge parade ground behind here. In 2012 it will be used for the Olympic beach volleyball championships.

## TRAFALGAR SQUARE

The square was built in commemoration of Nelson's victory over the French and Spanish fleets at the battle of Trafalgar in 1805. Nelson's column is 184ft/56m high

and it is modeled on one of the columns in the temple of Mars in Rome. It is topped by a 16ft/5m high statue of Horatio Nelson. Before hoisting him into place, 14 stone-masons celebrated completion of the column by having dinner on the platform at the top. The four bronze lions were moulded by Sir Edwin Landseer in 1868 and the two fountains were installed in 1948.



## KING CHARLES I

Looking down Whitehall to where he was executed. All measurements to London made from here.

## ADMIRALTY ARCH

Actually a large office block used by the Cabinet Office, the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit and the Social Exclusion Task Force. On the inside of the far right arch, there is an unusual feature. A small protrusion the size and shape of a human nose sticks out of one of the stones about seven feet up. There's little information available about why it was put there, but Royal soldiers were known to rub it for good luck as they rode through the arch.



## FOURTH PLINTH

Was originally intended to hold an equestrian statue of William IV, but remained empty due to insufficient funds.

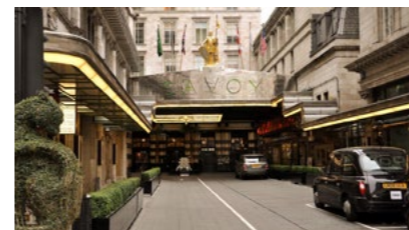
Since 1998, the fourth plinth has held a series of works by contemporary artists, often with social or political messages. The 2024 display is casts of the faces of 850 "trans" people from London and around the world.

## ST MARTIN IN THE FIELDS

Used as the model for most of the Protestant churches built in America, with the very tall pointed spire at one end.

## STRAND

Not The Strand, just Strand. Originally was the riverbank, before the construction of the Embankment, the river was much wider and shallower.



## SAVOY

The Savoy Palace stood on the site and was one of the most desirable locations in London. In 1889, Mr D'Oyly Carte built the Savoy Theatre and Hotel. The first public building in Britain to be lit by electricity

and the only street in Britain where traffic drives on the right because the access is too restricted for drivers to pull up and drop their passengers at the door if they approach on the left.

The first manager of the Savoy was Cesar Ritz who was fired because it was discovered that he was selling the hotel's wine and spirits through the back door of the kitchen and pocketing the money. He then set out to open his own hotel that would rival the glamour of the Savoy, and he opened the Ritz hotel on Piccadilly.

Bob Dylan filmed the video for his song Subterranean Homesick Blues in the alleyway at the back of the Savoy. And Peach Melba was invented here as a tribute to Dame Nelly Melba who stayed here regularly. Fred Astaire once danced on the roof of the Savoy with his sister.

## **COVENT GARDEN**

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The name comes from the area's origin as the Convent Garden of the monks of Westminster Abbey. After the dissolution of the monasteries, the land was given by Henry VIII to the first earl of Bedford who grew his own fruit and veg here and he would sell it to the locals like a posh little market garden.

When the fourth Earl came along, he decided to make it look like an Italian piazza.

Around the time that he did this, there was a trend (amongst those who were rich enough) to grow the newly discovered pineapple in greenhouses. You can see the pineapple on the top of every lamp-post in this district and it served as a symbol of wealth and hospitality.

Other people started to open stalls here and it became like a typical market ... a little bit scruffy for the posh fashionable residents that lived here, who all started to move away. So the 6th Earl added the neo-classical central market building, with an iron and glass roof, to contain the market.

On the far side of the square, beneath the Portico of St Paul's Church, you can see where 'enry 'iggins met Eliza Doolittle was selling flowers in the film My Fair Lady.

## **FROM WESTMINSTER TO KENSINGTON**

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### **WESTMINSTER BRIDGE**

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It was the first bridge to be built over the Thames after London Bridge. There was great resistance to the building of the bridge from the Archbishop and the ferryman who were, between them, making a tidy profit from the horse ferry, a little further down river, between Lambeth Palace, home of the Archbishop, and the House of Lords, until 1750.

### **LAMBETH BRIDGE**

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Lambeth Bridge eventually replaced the horse ferry. Reminds us again of the links between religion and politics because it links Lambeth Palace to the House of Lords. Notice the colour: Lambeth/Lords = Red. Westminster/Commons = Green.

### **LAMBETH PALACE**

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The London residence of the archbishops of Canterbury, head of the CofE. Built in 1207. In 1378, Wycliffe was summoned here before the bishops to defend his idea to translate the Bible into English instead of the Latin it was normally in at the time. But the government defended Wycliffe against the church (which was Catholic at the time). The Queen Mother particularly intervened to stop proceedings. Just 3 years later there was a peasant uprising against the heavy tax, terrible wages, and the denial of an English Bible. A man called Wat Tyler and another called Jack Straw, brought a mob which invaded London and gutted Lambeth Palace.

**Use points not used previously from Parliament Square / Whitehall / Trafalgar Square**

### **HAYMARKET**

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It was originally a hay market! Now a good place for theatres, restaurants and home to the New Zealand embassy.

### **WATERLOO PLACE**

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The column is the Grand Old Duke of York, who had 10,000 men ... he was made Bishop of Osnabruck when he was just six months old! This column was paid for by all the soldiers in the army. The Duke was £2 million in debt when he died in 1827, so the British Army soldiers all had a day's pay docked from their wages to pay for the column ... and yet the viewing platform at the top isn't even open to the public!



## PALL MALL

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Named after a game, a bit like a cross between croquet and golf, which was played here in the 17th Century. Later the game was moved to The Mall which was wider and safer after the traffic in Pall Mall got worse. There is a tunnel under the Mall linking the palaces to Downing Street.



## ST JAMES PALACE

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The official HQ of the Royal Family and home to the Princess Royal, Sir Timothy Laurence and Princess Alexandria.

## CLARENCE HOUSE

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Was the home of the Queen Mother, then home to the Waleses (Prince Charles and Camilla) and Prince Harry.

## MARLBOROUGH HOUSE

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The HQ of the British Commonwealth.

## ROYAL COURT SUPPLIERS

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Point out the shops and the crests above the doors.

Wine: Berry Bros

Hats: Locks

Boots: Lobb

Barber: Truefitt & Hills

## KING STREET

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Home to Christies auction house.

## PICCADILLY CIRCUS

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The statue of? Eros? Actually Anteros, the twin of Eros, the god of "love returned" who was given to his brother as a playmate, symbolising that love must be returned to prosper. He was chosen as the subject of this monument to the philanthropic giving of the Earl of Shaftesbury for the poor in the area.

## RITZ HOTEL

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Cesar Ritz' hotel, where dining out became a really fashionable thing to do in the 1890s. It was the first hotel to have all en-suite rooms and the Palm Court of the Ritz was once the ultimate place to take afternoon tea.

## GREEN PARK

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Named because it is predominantly grass and trees. Has served numerous purposes over the years, burial ground for the local leper colony, orchard for the palace, launching spot for the first hot air balloon flights and location of the fireworks display for which Handel composed his famous Music for the Royal Fireworks.

## LANESBOROUGH HOTEL

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Costing up to £14,000 per night. Reputedly the most expensive hotel in London. 24 hour butler is available to each guest, you can bring your own servants and chef if you wish, you have free use of the hotel's cars during your stay.



## HYDE PARK

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Used to be a hunting park for Henry VIII of 360 acres. Together with Kensington Gardens, just down the road it comes to 620 acres. Road through the centre of the park is Rotten Row ... in fact the road was named Kings Road in French, but as the local people couldn't pronounce it properly, the mispronunciation Rotten Row became more commonly used. It was the first road in England to be lit at night, lanterns were hung in the trees to protect the safety of the King when he rode at night. Originally the King could ride between all the royal palaces and right down as far as the Tower of London through all the inter-connected royal parks, without ever having to enter the public streets.

## MANDARIN ORIENTAL HYDE PARK

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Queen Elizabeth and Princess Margaret learned to dance and to play piano in the ballroom here. Point out the F1 car in the McLaren Showroom of One Hyde Park



## HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY BARRACKS

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The horses live, and are groomed, upstairs while the soldiers live downstairs. The horses even have balconies!

## IRANIAN AND LIBYAN EMBASSIES

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Scene of the SAS siege in 1980 when all the terrorists were killed as the SAS stormed the building suddenly. Remember the brother who was saved by the 50p coin in his shirt pocket that took the force of the bullet that was fired at him.



## ALBERT HALL & ALBERT MEMORIAL

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Victoria commissioned it in 1871 in memory of her beloved Prince Albert. The Hall is the "practical" element while the memorial is the "decorative" element. It was partly paid for by the profits from the Great Exhibition held in 1851 in Hyde Park. Sometimes called the Taj Mahal of Britain. At it's opening the Queen was so overcome that her son had to speak on her behalf and he announced, The queen declares this hall open!

Terrible acoustics, the only place a composer was guaranteed to hear his music twice, but the acoustics were resolved by installing “flying saucers” suspended from the ceiling.. The proms are held here every year.

### **QUEENS GATE**

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The only one that is still the original colour. All the other gates and railings were removed and melted down to make munitions during the war, but the Queen’s Gate couldn’t be removed so that is the only original one, still in it’s original colour, while the others have been replaced with plain black railings. Statues in this street include:



**Robert Napier:** Statue of famous British soldier on a horse, he looted a lot of stuff from Africa which is now on display in the British Museum.

**Benny Hill:** lived in the first house on the right.

**Robert Baden Powell:** The only statue in London wearing shorts!



### **NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM**

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Displays include an actual mass grave from the time of the global flood, a display showing the order of creation in exactly the same order as in Genesis, several displays showing how the world was once one land-mass, dinosaurs, an animatronic T-rex, a room about

genetics, and an earthquake room that actually shakes!

### **SCIENCE MUSEUM**

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History of technology. Free but have to pay extra for certain exhibitions, simulators and IMAX films. Check the IMAX film first so you don’t run out of time.

### **V&A**

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Fabulous collections of costumes, paintings, silverware, wrought ironwork, old royal furniture ... and a very good cafe!

Harrods, Harvey Nichols etc. nearby

