



**I started working in London in 1994.**

- Apartment in London 1996 to 2000.
- Another apartment 2006 to 2013.
- 2000 to 2006, I was there about one week a month staying in a hotel.
- 2013 to end of 2017: Worked half-time from home in Hong Kong, going to London 3 or 4 times a year for a week each. Hotel.
- 2018 retired!



**We will visit London in two parts:**

**Sept 15 (Today)**

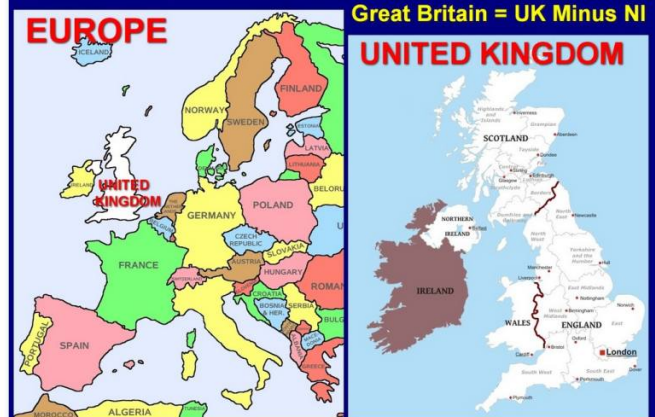
- Maps
- Museums
- History & Government
- Churches & Religion
- River Thames
- Parks & Squares
- Arts & Entertainment

**Oct 6, 3:00pm**

- Transportation
- City of London
- Markets
- Shopping
- Neighbourhoods
- Miscellaneous

**First a quick intro to the UK.**

**Maps of Europe and United Kingdom**



**United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

**Area:** 94,058 square miles (about the size of Michigan).

- **England 53%.**
- **Scotland 32%.**
- **Wales 9%.**
- **Northern Ireland 6%.**

*The only international border is Northern Ireland's border with the Republic of Ireland.*

**Population:** 68.4 million (2024 est)

**Main Language:** English.

**Language spoken at home in UK (2021):**

- **English 91%.**
- **Polish 1%.**
- **Romanian 1%.**
- **Punjabi 1%.**
- **Urdu 1%.**

**USA Language spoken at home:**  
English 77%  
Spanish 14%  
Others 9%

- **Others (incl Scots, Gaelic, Welsh, Irish) 5%.**

**Median Age:** 40.8 years (USA 38.9).

**Health Expenditure:** 11.3% of GDP (USA 16.6% of GDP).

**Adult Obesity:** 28% (USA 36%).

**Education:** 5.5% of GDP (USA 6.1% of GDP).

**Government:** Parliamentary constitutional monarchy.

Constitution consists of statutes and common law, but there is no one constitution document.

**Citizenship by birth:** No.

**Dual citizenship allowed:** Yes.



**Head of state:**  
King Charles III  
(since Sept 8,  
2022).

**Monarchy is  
hereditary.**



*Succeeded his mother Queen  
Elizabeth II, who reigned for 70  
years and 214 days (longest ever).*

**Head of government:**  
Prime Minister Keir  
Starmer, Labour Party  
(since 5 July 2024)



**2024 landslide Labour  
win ending 14 years of  
Conservative government.**

**Parliament has two Houses:**  
**Commons and Lords.**

Both must vote on laws.

**Result of 2024 Election:**

**Total in Commons:** 650 MPs.

- **Labour:** 63% 411 MPs.
- **Conservatives:** 19% 121 MPs.
- **Liberal Democrat:** 11% 72 MPs.
- **Others:** 7% 46 MPs (12 parties).

**House of Lords:** 835 members.

**Types of members:**

- **724 life peers:** Appointed by the sovereign on the advice of the prime minister.
- **87 hereditary peers.**
- **24 Lords Spiritual:** Bishops of the Church of England.

**A Few More Items**

**Capital:** London.

**Time Difference:** NY + 5 hours.

**National Holiday:** None.

**EU Member?** No longer.

**Currency:**

Pound Sterling

£1 = \$1.35

**Drive:** Left.



**Leading city tourism destinations in  
Europe 2023. Millions of bed nights.**

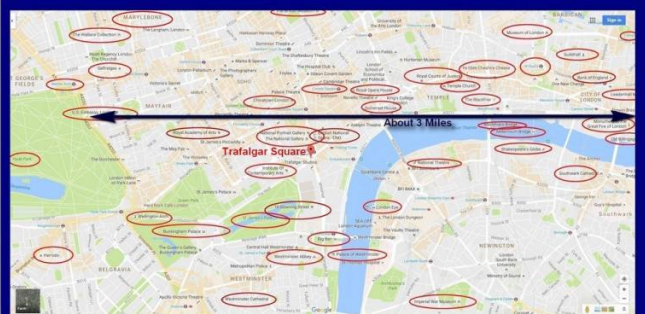
→ <b>London</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>Madrid</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Paris</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>Munich</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Istanbul</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Vienna</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Berlin</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Prague</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Rome</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>Hamburg</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Amsterdam</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Lisbon</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Barcelona</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>Stockholm</b>	<b>15</b>

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/314340/leading-european-city-tourism-destinations-by-number-of-bednights/>

**OK, It's  
Time to Visit  
London**

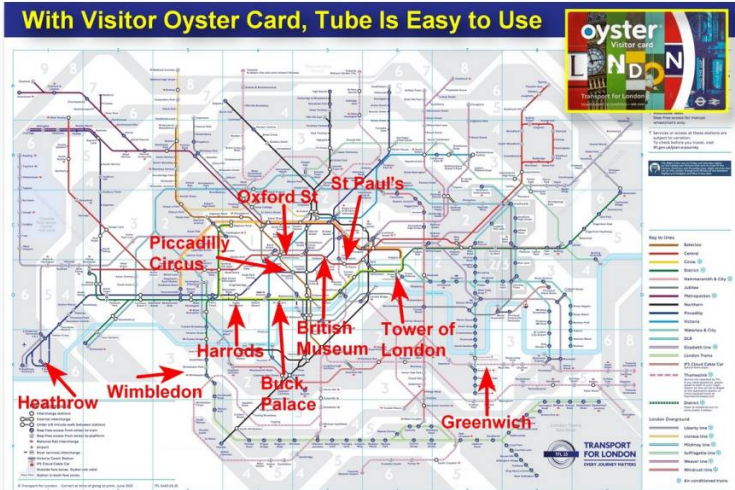


**The great majority of the places we  
will talk about are circled. The map  
shows how close everything is.**



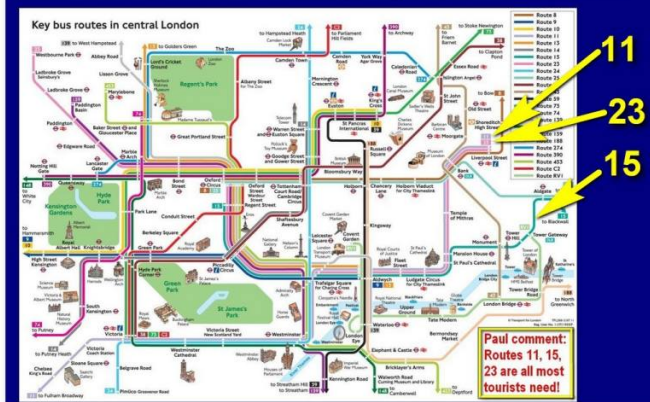


With Visitor Oyster Card, Tube Is Easy to Use



Use your Oyster Card on buses too.

Main tourist routes: 11, 23, 15=RouteMaster



## MUSEUMS

British Museum  
Human History,  
Art, Culture



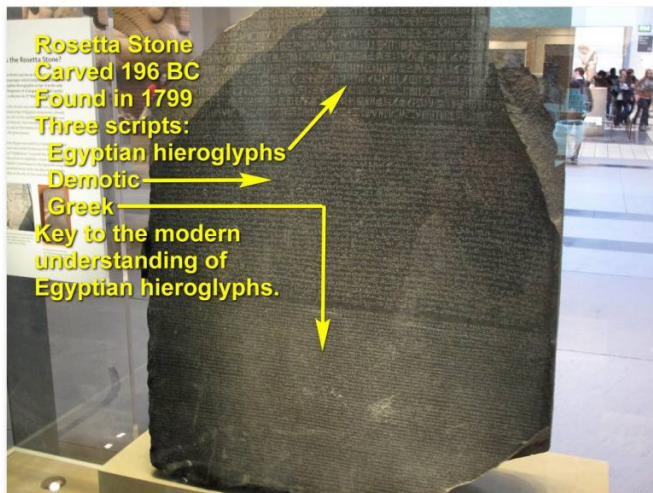
Collection:  
8 Million Objects

British Museum  
Parthenon Marbles  
5th c BC



Parthenon in  
Athens today

Rosetta Stone  
Carved 196 BC  
Found in 1799  
Three scripts:  
Egyptian hieroglyphs  
Demotic  
Greek  
Key to the modern  
understanding of  
Egyptian hieroglyphs.



British Museum



Two galleries of ancient  
Egyptian death and  
afterlife

British Museum  
Assyrian Winged  
Bull Gate  
800s BC





British Museum  
Large Asian art  
section



British Museum  
Nereid Monument  
Tomb, Turkey  
4th c BC



British Museum  
Roman Mosaics



National Gallery of Art  
Trafalgar Square



National Gallery of Art  
Over 2,300 paintings  
All schools of European art  
from the 1250 to 1900

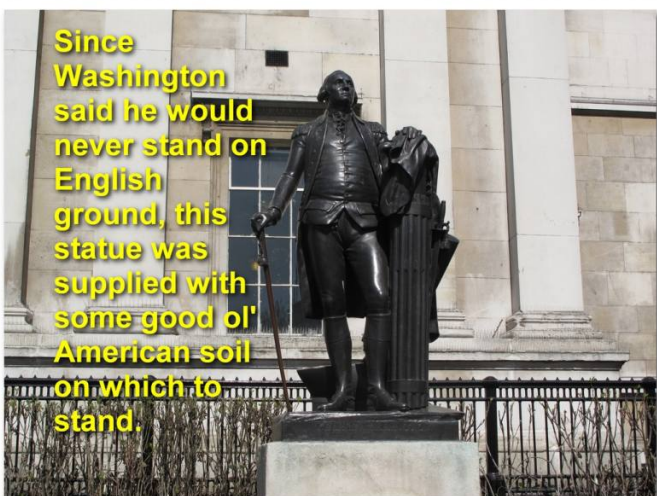


World's Most Visited Art Museums

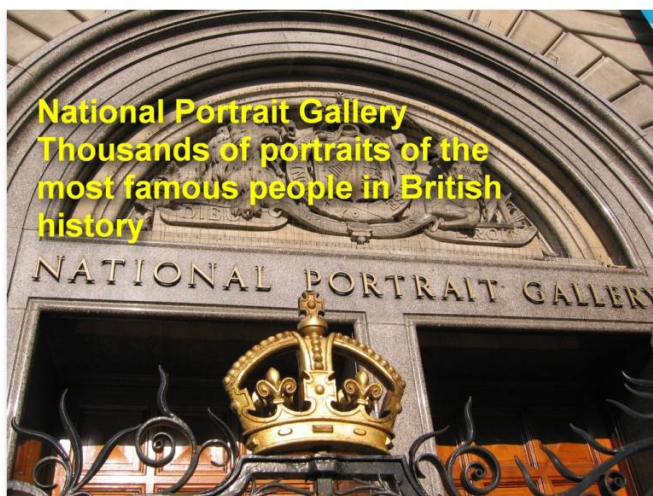
	Museum	Location	Visitors 2024
1	Louvre	Paris	8,737,050
2	Vatican Museums	Rome	6,825,436
3	British Museum	London	6,479,952
4	Metropolitan Museum of Art	New York	5,727,258
5	Tate Modern	London	4,603,025
6	Shanghai Museum East (opened 2024)	Shanghai	4,243,046
7	National Gallery of Art	Washington	3,936,543
8	National Museum of Korea	Seoul	3,788,785
9	Musée d'Orsay	Paris	3,751,141
10	State Russian Museum	St Petersburg	3,611,899
11	State Hermitage Museum	St Petersburg	3,563,590
12	Victoria and Albert Museum	London	3,525,700
13	Museo del Prado	Madrid	3,457,057
14	Pompidou Center	Paris	3,204,369
15	National Gallery	London	3,203,451
16	Uffizi Gallery	Florence	2,908,828
17	Museum of Modern Art	New York	2,657,377



Since Washington said he would never stand on English ground, this statue was supplied with some good ol' American soil on which to stand.



National Portrait Gallery  
Thousands of portraits of the most famous people in British history







**Victoria and Albert Museum  
Decorative Arts  
In South  
Kensington**



**Victoria and Albert Museum  
Collection includes 2.3 million  
objects covering 5,000 years  
Architecture, Asia, Ceramics,  
Childhood, Fashion, Furniture,  
Glass, Jewellery, Metalwork,  
Paintings & Drawings,  
Photography, Prints & Books,  
Sculpture, Textiles, Theatre**

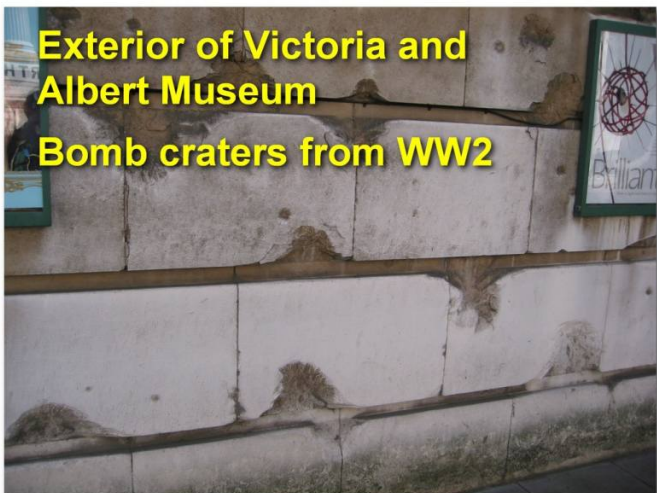


**Victoria and Albert Museum**

**Collection: 2.8 million objects**



**Victoria and Albert Museum**



**Exterior of Victoria and  
Albert Museum  
Bomb craters from WW2**



**Imperial War Museum**

**History of all wars  
the UK has been  
involved in  
since 1914.**

**South of Thames in  
"Elephant and Castle" area**

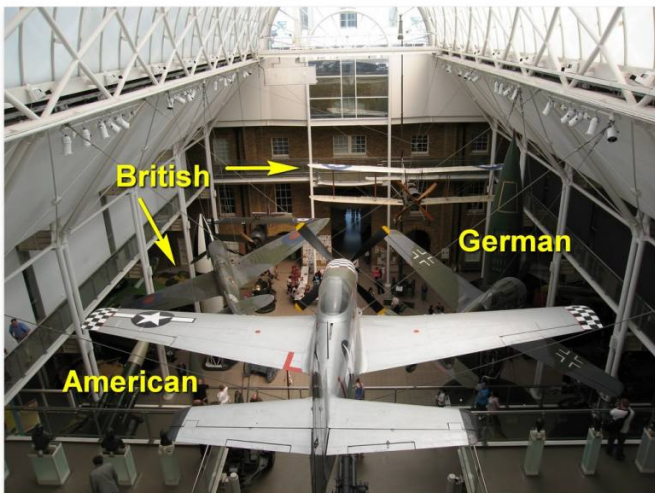


**Imperial War Museum  
Battleship Guns**



**Imperial War  
Museum  
M4 Sherman V  
tank - WWII  
50,000  
produced**









**Churchill War Rooms**  
Used 1939-1945  
Churchill's dining room



**Churchill War rooms**  
Map Room



**Natural History Museum**  
South Kensington  
Next to V&A and  
Science Museum



**Natural History Museum**  
Building: 1881  
Main collections:  
— Botany (plants)  
— Entomology (insects)  
— Mineralogy (minerals)  
— Paleontology (fossils)  
— Zoology (animals)



**Science Museum**  
South Kensington  
Next to Natural  
History Museum



**Tate Britain**  
Gallery of British  
Art 1500 to  
the present

Building  
dates from  
1897.



**Tate Britain**  
J. M. W. Turner  
English painter  
1775 to 1851



**Tate Britain**  
J. M. W. Turner  
English painter  
1775 to 1851



**Tate Modern  
Gallery of international  
modern art**



**Tate Modern  
In former Bankside Power Station  
Electricity plant 1891-1981**



**Wallace Collection  
Outstanding  
museum of  
paintings, furniture,  
arms & armour and  
porcelain  
15th to 18th c.  
Free admission.**



**Wallace Collection  
in the Marylebone  
section of London**



**Wallace Collection**



**Wallace Collection  
Canaletto Grand Canal**



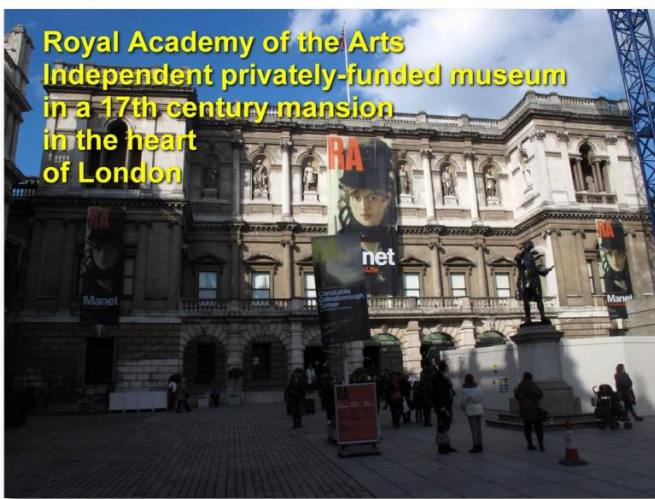
**Wallace Collection**



**Wallace Collection  
Rembrandt self portrait**





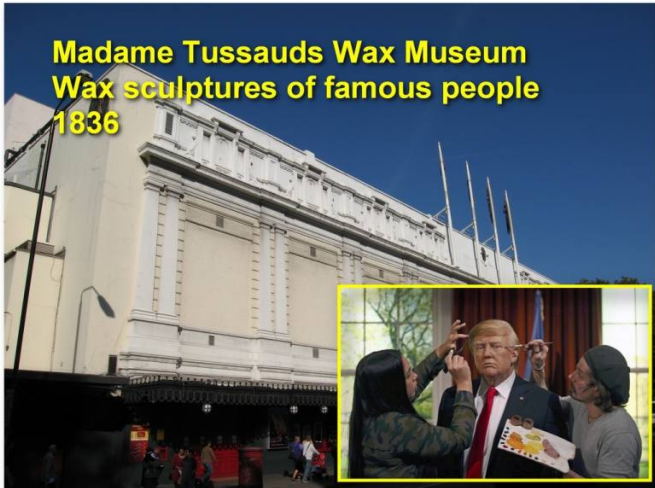


**Royal Academy of the Arts**  
Independent privately-funded museum  
in a 17th century mansion  
in the heart  
of London

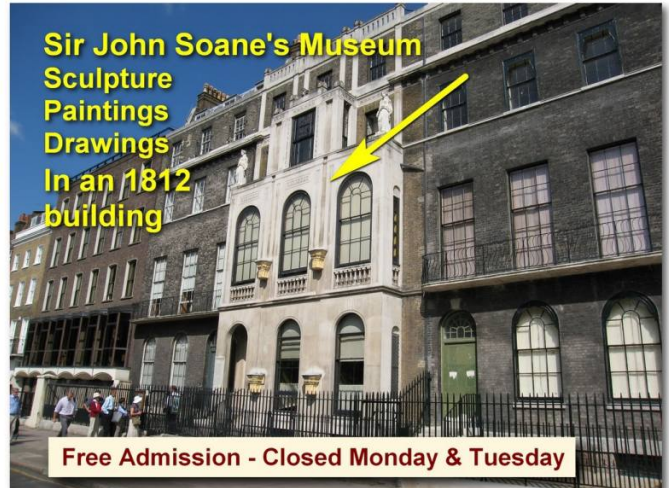


**British Library**  
170 million catalogued items

Examples:  
Two Gutenberg Bibles  
Two 1215 copies of Magna Carta  
Sole surviving manuscript of Beowulf  
8 million postage stamps  
2 million music scores (including Beatles)  
6 million sound recordings



**Madame Tussauds Wax Museum**  
Wax sculptures of famous people  
1836



**Sir John Soane's Museum**  
Sculpture  
Paintings  
Drawings  
In an 1812  
building

Free Admission - Closed Monday & Tuesday



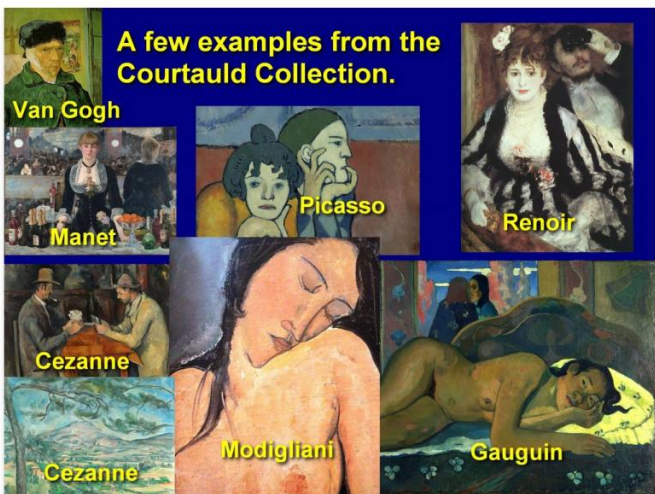
**Somerset House - 1776**

Originally government  
offices (until 2009  
Inland Revenue ).  
Now:  
Courtauld Gallery  
(Impressionists)  
and Kings  
College



**Somerset House - 1776**

Courtauld  
Gallery - Great  
collection of  
Impressionists



A few examples from the  
Courtauld Collection.



**Somerset House**  
Courtyard in the summer.  
In winter there is ice skating.



# HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT

Houses of Parliament  
Formally: Palace of Westminster  
Built 1840-1870



The previous Palace of Westminster (a Medieval building) burned in 1834.

Parliament 1840-1870

← Victoria Tower 1858

At the time this was the tallest secular building in the world!



Perpendicular Gothic style  
Made of magnesian limestone

- 1,100 rooms
- 100 staircases
- 3 miles of passageways
- 4 floors

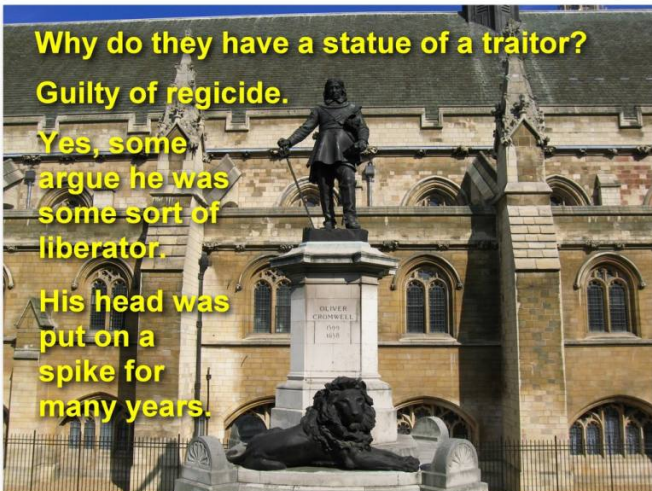


Why do they have a statue of a traitor?

Guilty of regicide.

Yes, some argue he was some sort of liberator.

His head was put on a spike for many years.



Palace of Westminster - Burgheers of Calais by Rodin



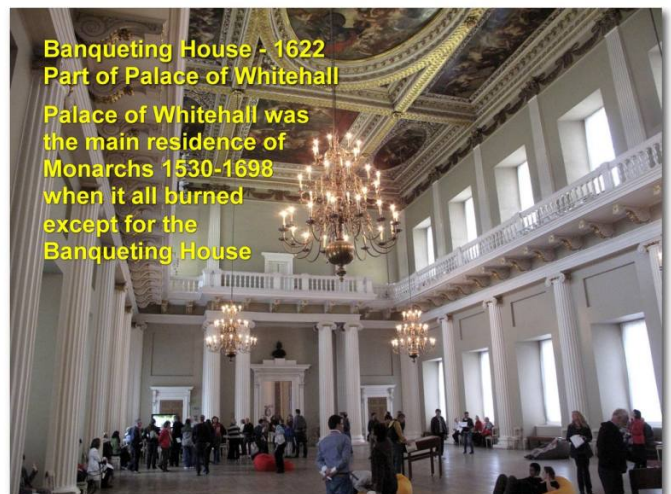
Big Ben - 1859  
Clock dials 23 feet in diameter

Clock face was damaged by German Blitz in WW2, but the clock ran and chimed accurately throughout the War.



Banqueting House - 1622  
Part of Palace of Whitehall

Palace of Whitehall was the main residence of Monarchs 1530-1698 when it all burned except for the Banqueting House







**Buckingham Palace  
View of St James's Park**

**Royal  
Standard**

**The Royal Standard**

**2 quadrants with gold lions -- Kingdom of England**

**1 quadrant with a red lion -- Scotland**

**1 quadrant with a harp -- Ireland**

**Flies where the Queen is in residence**



**Buckingham Palace - 1703  
Became the residence of the  
Monarch under Queen  
Victoria in 1837**



**Buckingham Palace**

State rooms (incl throne room, ballroom, drawing rooms, grand staircase) open to public July to September. Sometimes other dates during year. Book online £32.



**Buckingham Palace  
Balcony from which Royal  
Family greets crowds**



**Buckingham Palace  
Changing of the Guard**

**Changing of the Guard  
ceremony daily from April  
to July, every other day in  
other months.**

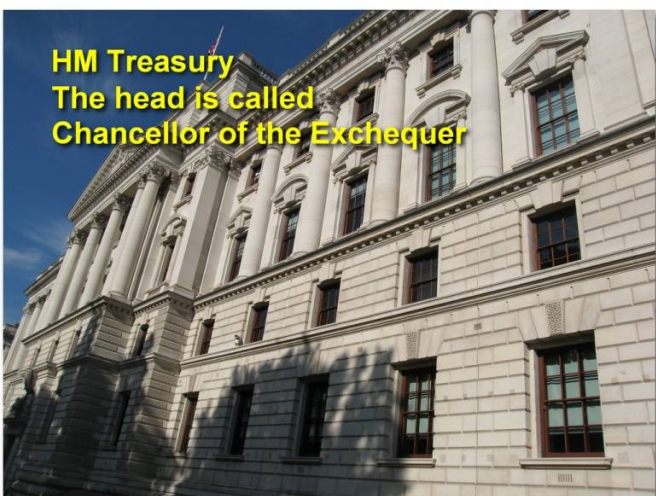
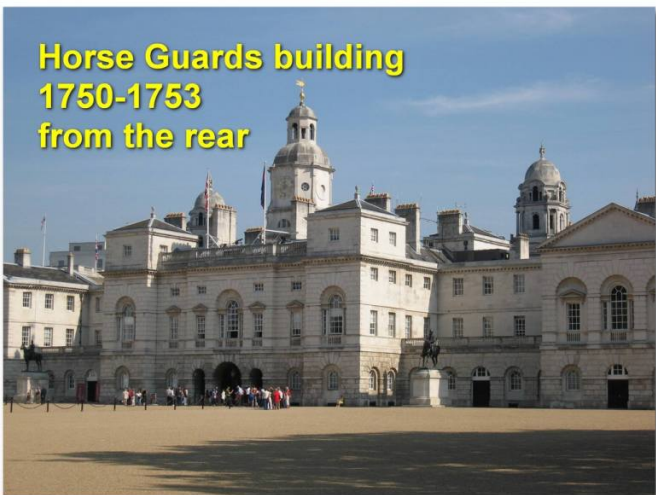
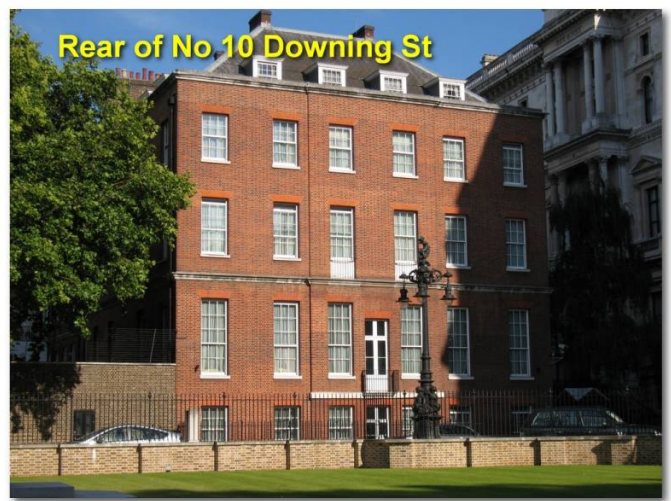


**Queens Guard at  
Victoria Memorial 1911  
(in front of  
Buckingham  
Palace)**



**Downing St  
No 10 is Prime Minister's  
Residence and Office**





Downing St  
No 10

Rear of No 10 Downing St

Horse Guards  
1750-1753

Horse Guards  
Queen's  
Household  
Cavalry

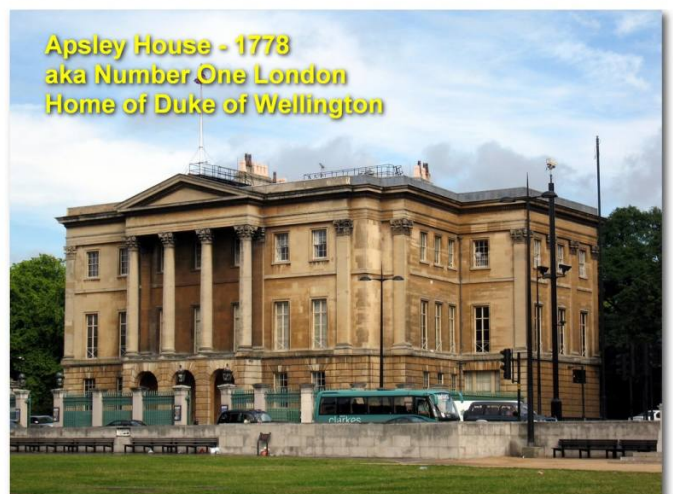
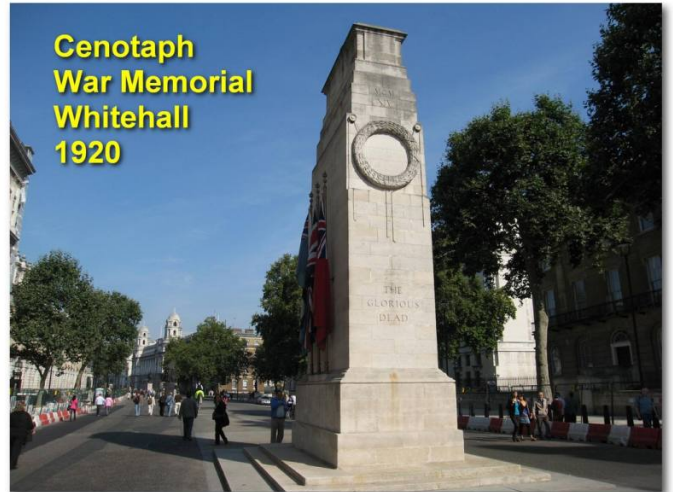
Horse Guards building  
1750-1753  
from the rear

HM Treasury  
Building  
Finance and  
economics  
ministry.  
Built in two phases  
between 1898 and  
1917.

HM Treasury  
The head is called  
Chancellor of the Exchequer

UK Foreign Office  
Like US State Department.  
Responsible for:  
1. Security.  
2. Promote foreign trade.  
3. Protect UK nationals  
overseas.









**Apsley House**

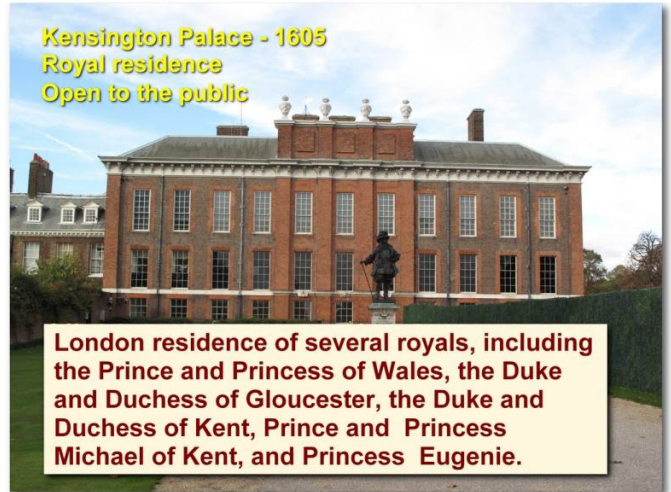


**Apsley House**



**Wellington Arch - 1830**  
Commemorates Duke Wellington's victory over Napoleon at Waterloo in 1815.

**Waterloo is in Belgium**

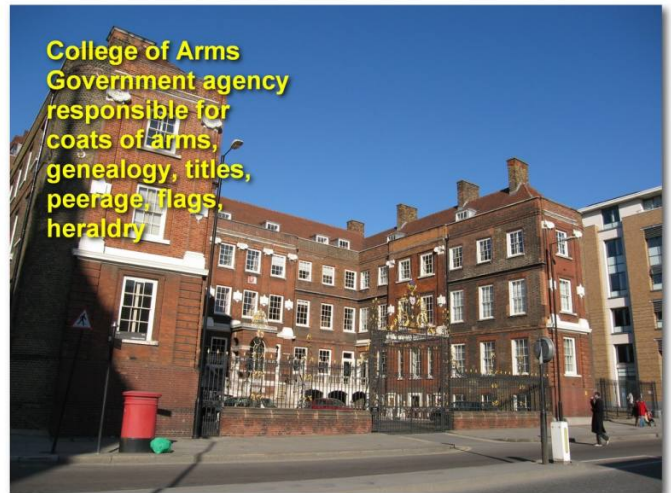


**Kensington Palace - 1605**  
Royal residence  
Open to the public

London residence of several royals, including the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, the Duke and Duchess of Kent, Prince and Princess Michael of Kent, and Princess Eugenie.



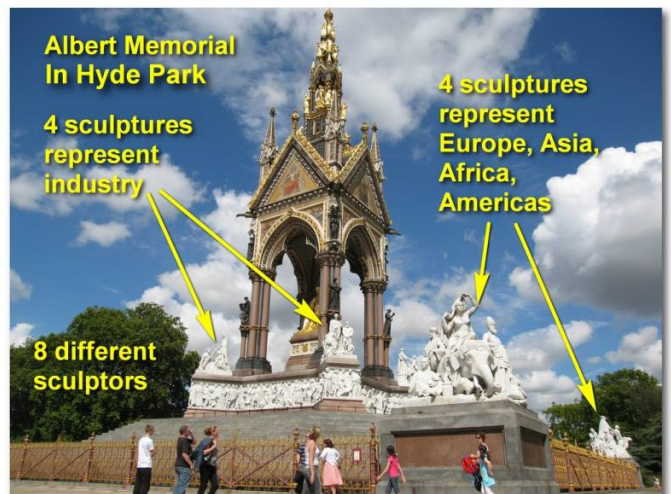
**Admiralty Arch, 1912**  
Government offices now being converted to residential - **96-room Waldorf Astoria Hotel.**



**College of Arms**  
Government agency responsible for coats of arms, genealogy, titles, peerage, flags, heraldry



**Albert Memorial - 1872**  
Honors Prince Albert Husband of Queen Victoria, who died 1861 of typhoid



**Albert Memorial In Hyde Park**

4 sculptures represent industry

4 sculptures represent Europe, Asia, Africa, Americas

8 different sculptors

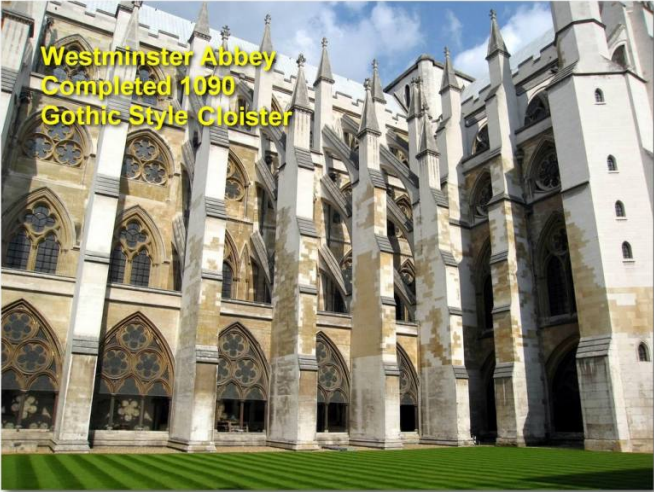


# CHURCHES AND RELIGIOUS

**Westminster  
Abbey  
Completed  
1090**



**Westminster Abbey  
Completed 1090  
Gothic Style Cloister**



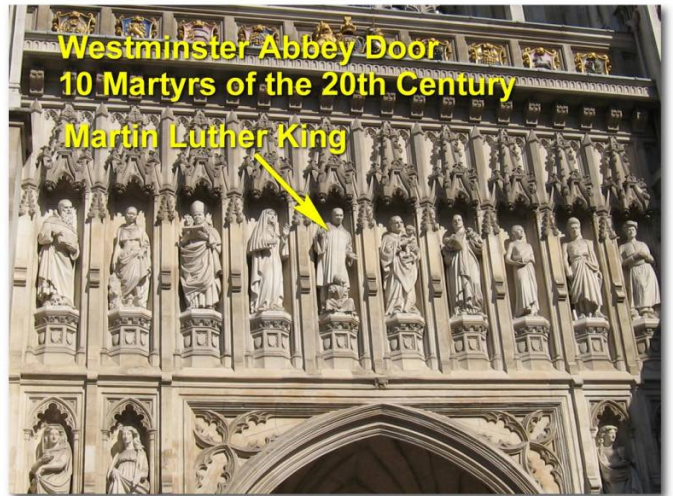
**Two western towers  
Built 1722-1745  
Gothic Revival Style**



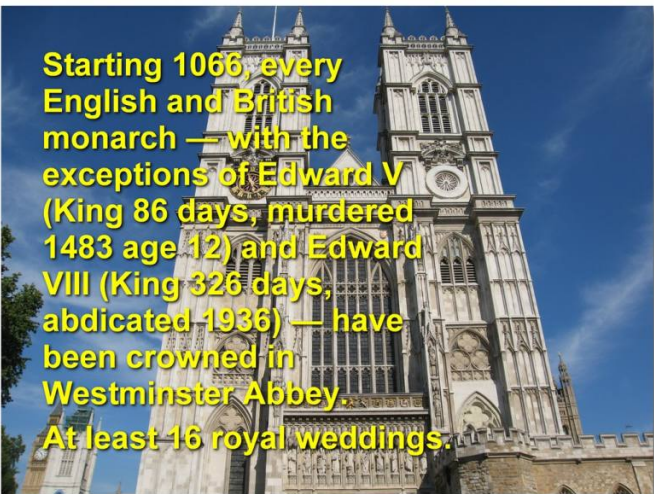
**Westminster Abbey  
The Great West Door**



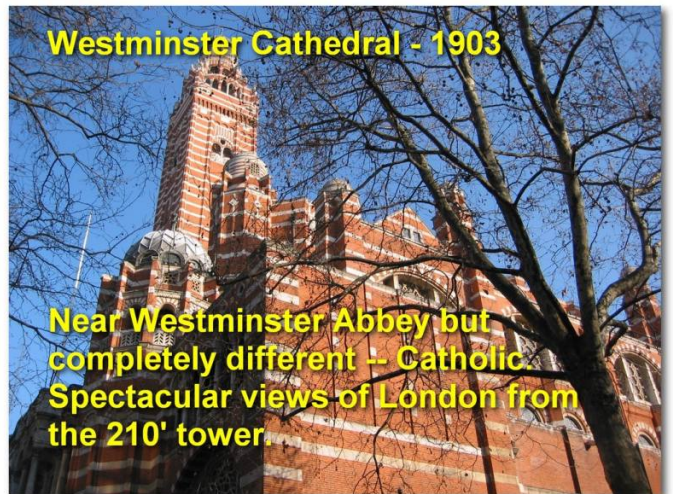
**Westminster Abbey Door  
10 Martyrs of the 20th Century  
Martin Luther King**



Starting 1066, every English and British monarch — with the exceptions of Edward V (King 86 days, murdered 1483 age 12) and Edward VIII (King 326 days, abdicated 1936) — have been crowned in Westminster Abbey. At least 16 royal weddings.

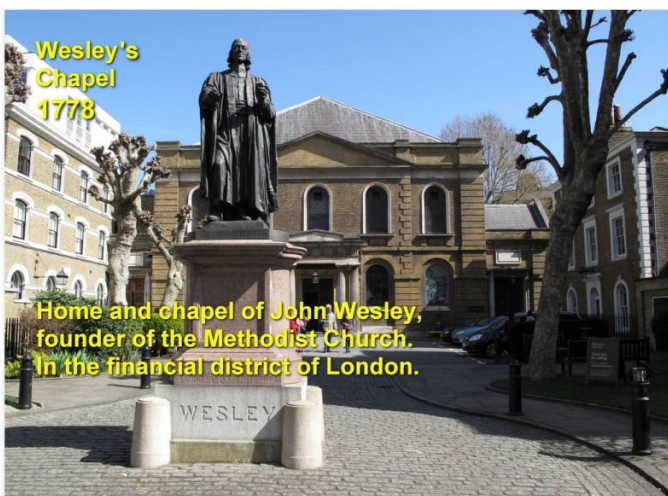
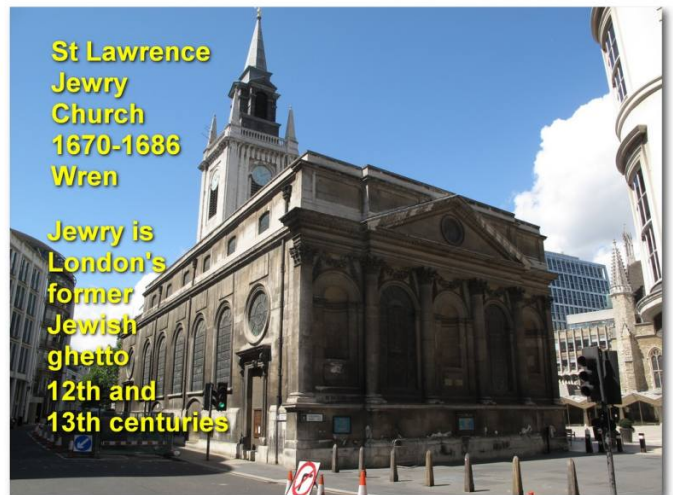
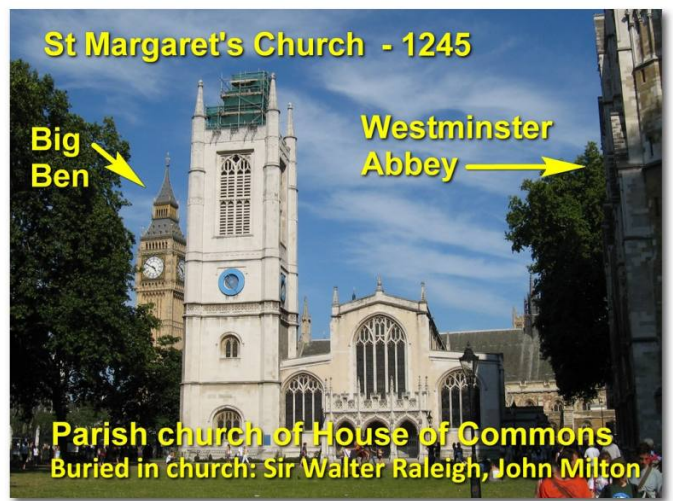


**Westminster Cathedral - 1903**

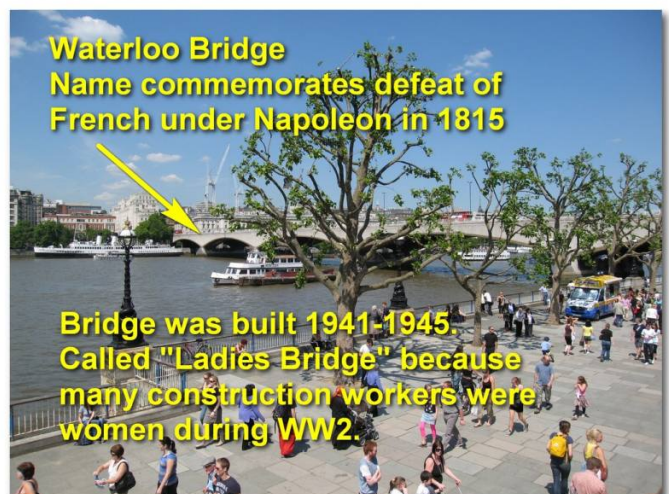
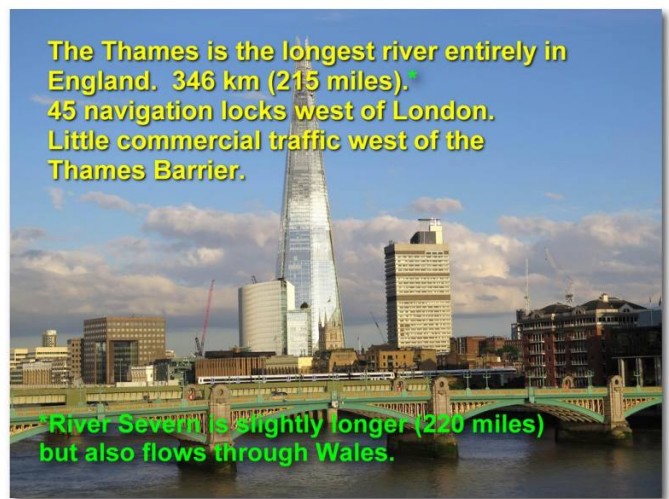


Near Westminster Abbey but completely different - Catholic. Spectacular views of London from the 210' tower.







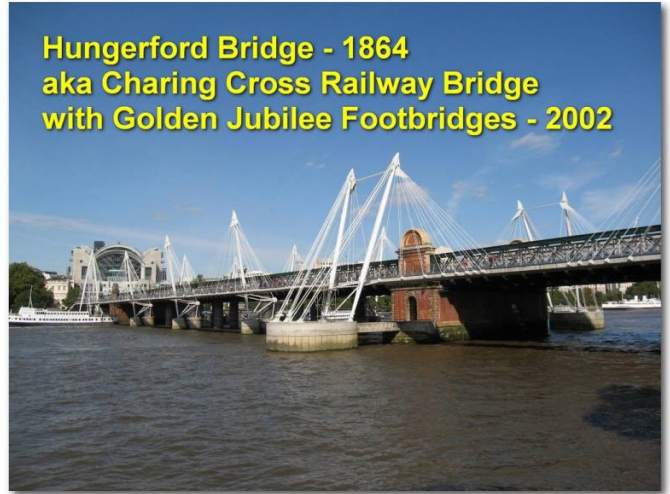




**Weekend Book Market  
Under Waterloo Bridge**



**Hungerford Bridge - 1864  
aka Charing Cross Railway Bridge  
with Golden Jubilee Footbridges - 2002**



## PARKS AND SQUARES

**National Gallery  
Building 1832 to 1838**

**St Martin-in-the-  
Fields Church  
1721-1726**

**Trafalgar Square**



**Battle of Trafalgar 1805 - British Defeat Napoleon**

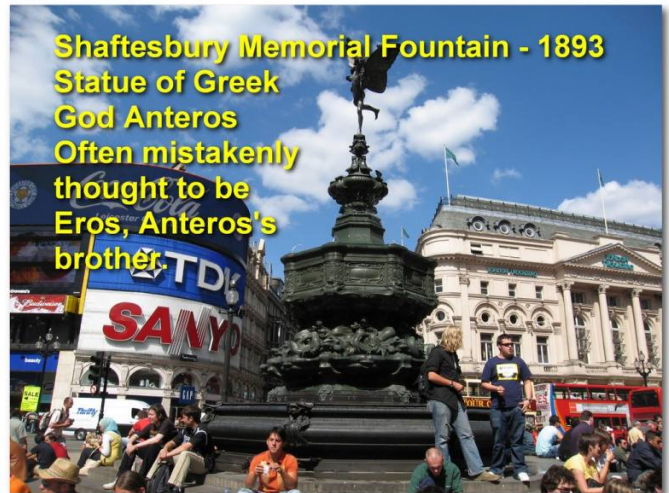
**Trafalgar  
Square  
King Charles I  
was executed  
by Oliver  
Cromwell 1649.  
Monarchy  
abolished!  
Restored  
1660 by  
Charles II.**

**Monument  
to Admiral  
Horatio  
Nelson, who  
died in the  
Battle of  
Trafalgar 1805.  
Built 1843.**

**Statue of  
Charles marks  
the official  
center of  
London.**



**Shaftesbury Memorial Fountain - 1893  
Statue of Greek  
God Anteros  
Often mistakenly  
thought to be  
Eros, Anteros's  
brother.**



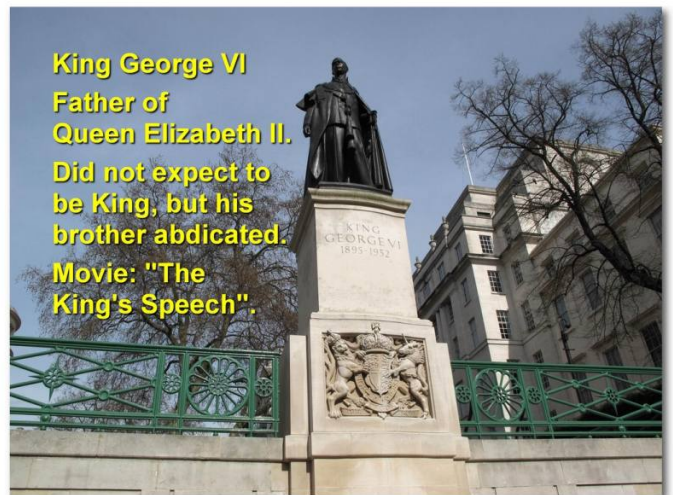
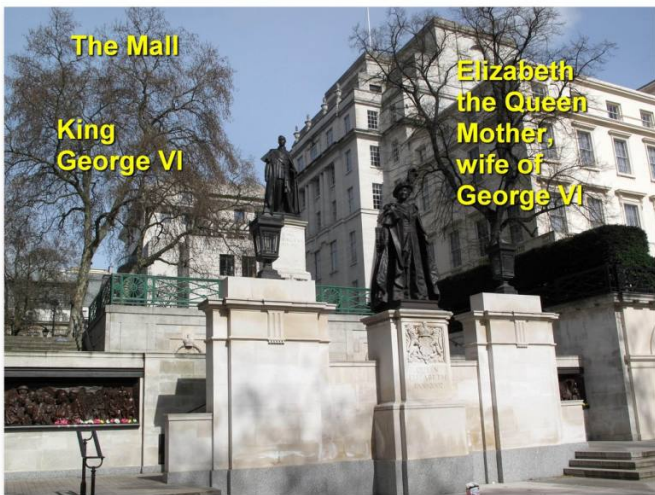
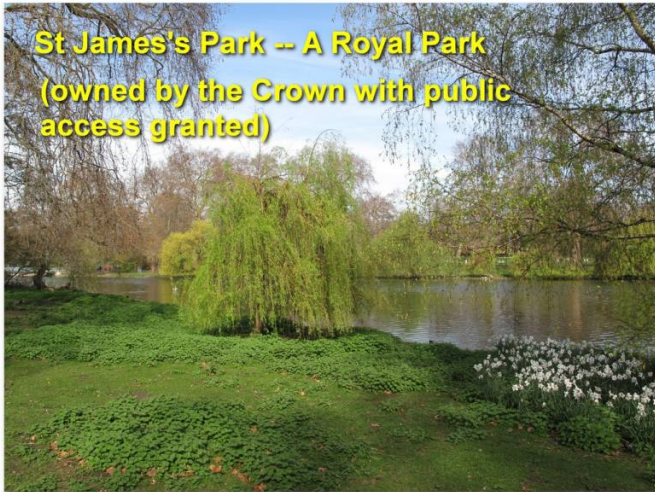
**Piccadilly Circus  
London's modest answer  
to Times Square**



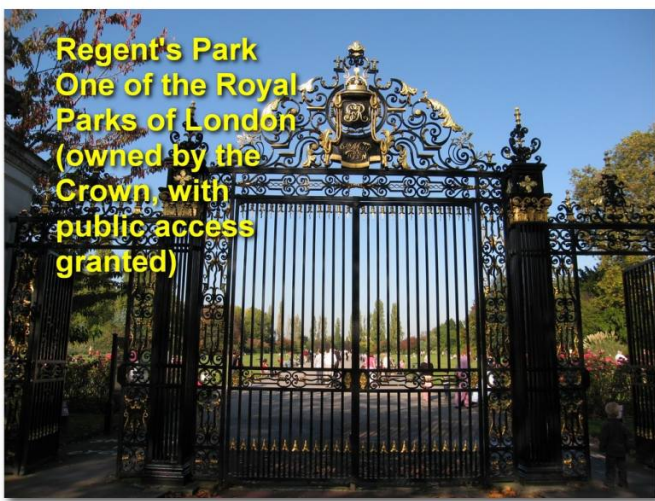
**The street that goes west from  
Piccadilly Circus to Green Park  
is called Piccadilly.**











**Regent's Park**  
One of the Royal  
Parks of London  
(owned by the  
Crown, with  
public access  
granted)

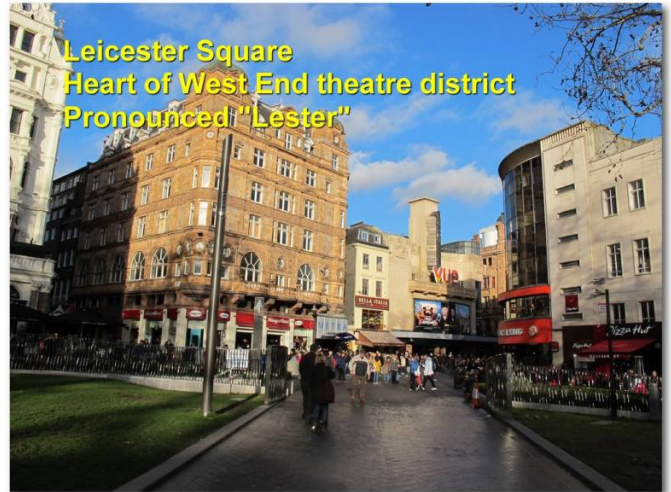


**Regent's Park**  
Central London  
North of Marylebone



**Regent's Park**

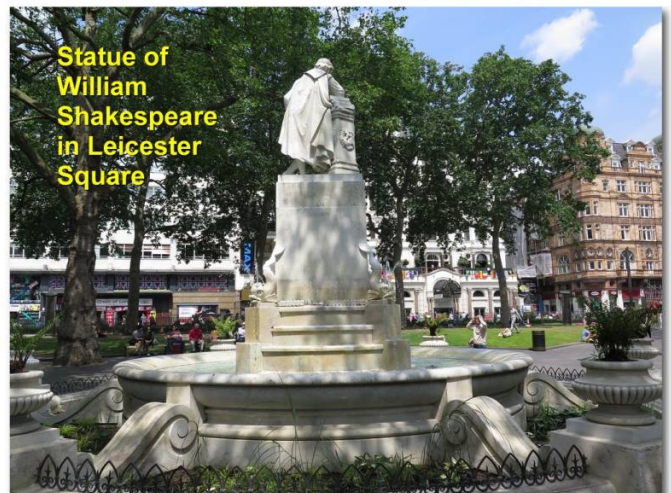
Other Royal Parks in London include  
Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens,  
St James's Park, Green Park,  
Richmond Park, Greenwich Park



**Leicester Square**  
Heart of West End theatre district  
Pronounced "Lester"



**Leicester Square**  
Discount theatre tickets



**Statue of  
William  
Shakespeare  
in Leicester  
Square**



**SoHo -- entertainment area of London**  
Just north of Chinatown and  
Leicester Square



**Heart of SoHo - Old Compton St**



# ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Approximately 40 theatres  
in London's West End  
Annual ticket sales  
15 million

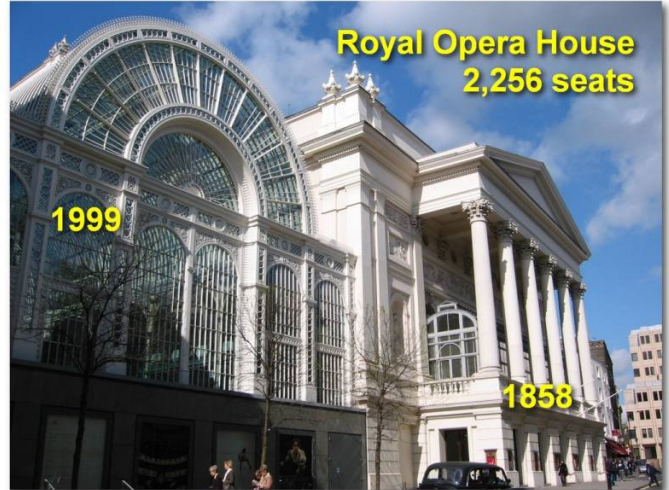


Garrick Theatre

Her Majesty's Theatre  
London's West End



Royal Opera House  
2,256 seats



1999

1858

English National Opera  
Operas sung in English  
Building is known as  
London Coliseum  
1904



Royal Albert Hall - 1871  
Concert Hall  
Seats 5,272



Royal Albert Hall Interior  
(not my photo)



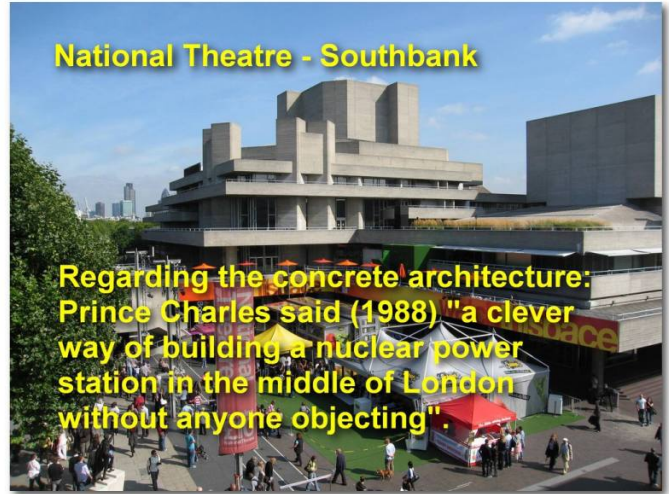
Queen Elizabeth Hall - Music venue  
Purcell Room - Smaller music venue  
Part of Southbank Arts Centre







**National Theatre - Southbank, 1976**  
 Olivier Theatre: 1,160 seats  
 Lyttelton Theatre: 890 seats  
 Dorfman Theatre: 400 seats

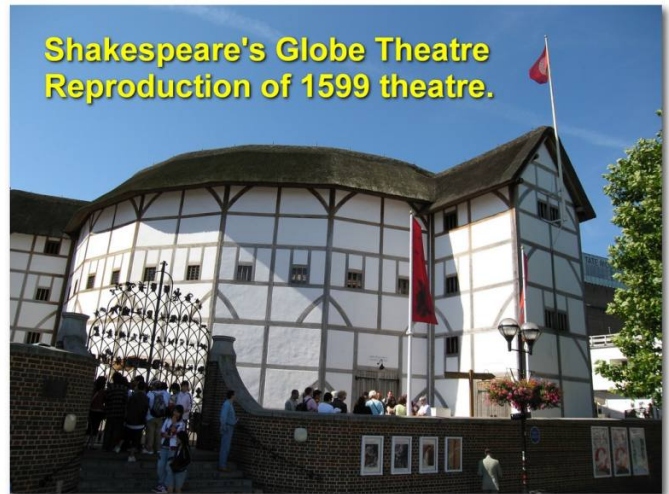


**National Theatre - Southbank**  
 Regarding the concrete architecture:  
 Prince Charles said (1988) "a clever  
 way of building a nuclear power  
 station in the middle of London  
 without anyone objecting".

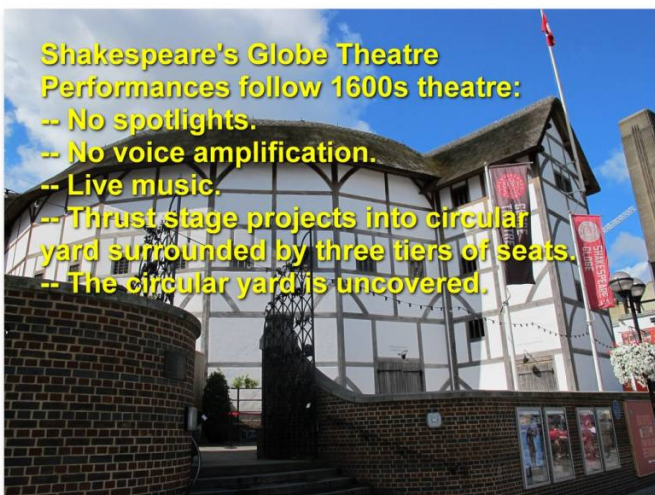


**Wigmore Hall - 1901**  
 Leading international  
 venue for chamber  
 music concerts.

400 concerts a year.  
 Weekly BBC broadcast.



**Shakespeare's Globe Theatre**  
 Reproduction of 1599 theatre.

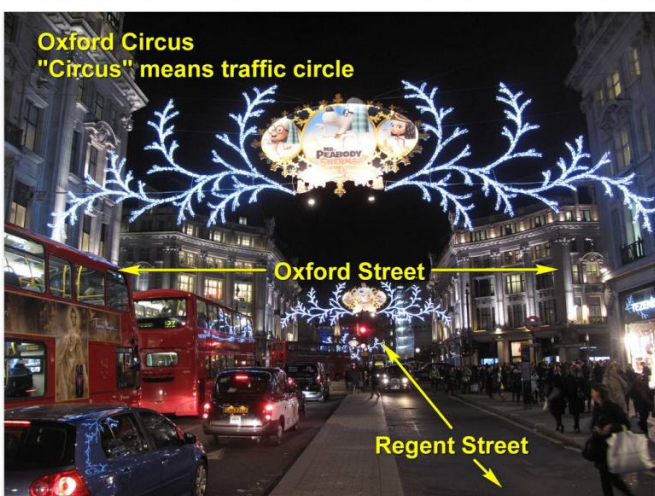


**Shakespeare's Globe Theatre**  
 Performances follow 1600s theatre:

- No spotlights.
- No voice amplification.
- Live music.
- Thrust stage projects into circular yard surrounded by three tiers of seats.
- The circular yard is uncovered.



**Regent Street - Christmas**



**Oxford Circus**  
 "Circus" means traffic circle

Oxford Street

Regent Street



**Selfridge's  
 Department Store  
 Oxford Street  
 1909**



