

TRAFALGAR SQUARE



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2 ТПИ

Trafalgar Square is a square in the center of London, where the three main streets of Westminster-the Strand, Whitehall and the Mall – converge on the site of the Charing Cross (Charing Cross). Originally named King William IV Square, it was finally named after the victory at the Battle of Trafalgar. The square is an important transport interchange. It is also served by Charing Cross Underground Station on the Bakerloo and Northern lines. Trafalgar Square is a traditional place for rallies, demonstrations, and mass celebrations, such as the Chinese New Year. On May 8, 1945, Churchill announced the victory in the Second World War to the Londoners gathered in the square. Every year, the main Christmas tree of the country, imported from Norway, is installed on the square.



History

The square appeared at the beginning of the XIX century. Before that, the royal stables were located in its place, after the demolition of which a vacant lot was formed. Architect John Nash proposed to turn it into an area where it would be possible to hold meetings and organize local celebrations. His plan was approved, and after Nash's death, the square was formed. The completion of the construction work was supervised by architect Charles Barry. Designed by Charles Barry in 1840-1845, a terrace with ledges on both sides, sloping walls on the east and west sides, two swimming pools and fountains were erected in the northern part of the square. According to Barry's plan, four pedestals were installed at the corners of the square for monuments to



Architecture

In the center of the square stands the Nelson Column of dark gray granite, topped by a statue of Admiral Nelson. Square in plan, the pedestal is decorated with four panels cast from captured French (Napoleonic) cannons, which depict the four famous victories of Nelson. The column was installed in 1840-1843, surrounded by sculptures of lions and fountains. In 2006, the Trafalgar Column was restored. The work was carried out by David Ball Restoration Ltd. of South London. Before the restoration, a laser survey was carried out, which showed that the height of the structure is 51.5 meters (counting from the first step to the hat on the statue of the admiral). Around the square are the London National Gallery (arch. William Wilkins, 1838), St. Martin's Church in the Fields (arch. James Gibbs, 1721), Admiralty Arch (arch. Aston Webb, 1912) and several embassies.

