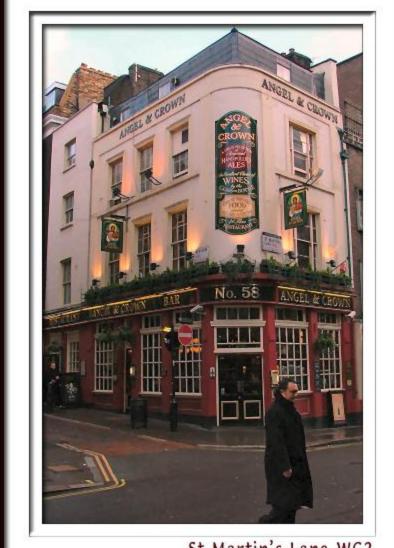
## Pubs

London

It's a public house, informally known as a pub and sometimes referred to as the "local", is a licensed drinking establishment which is part of British culture.



St Martin's Lane WC2





A pub that offers lodging may be called an inn or (more recently) hotel in the United Kingdom.



There are approximately 53,500 public houses in the United Kingdom; a number that declines every year, so that nearly half of the smaller villages no longer have a local pub.







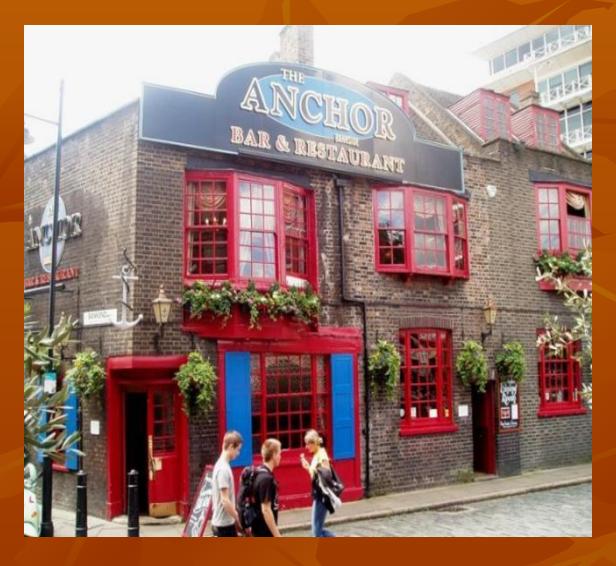
In many places, especially in villages, a pub can be the focal point of the community.



- Public houses are socially and culturally different from places such as cafés, bars.
- Pubs are social places based on the sale of alcoholic beverages, and most public houses offer a range of beers, wines, spirits, alcopops and soft drinks.







- Many pubs are controlled by breweries, so beer is often better value than wines and spirits, while soft drinks can be almost as expensive.
- Beer served in a pub may be cask ale or keg beer. All pubs also have a range of non-alcoholic beverages available.



- Traditionally the
  windows of town pubs
  are of smoked or
  frosted glass so that
  the clientele is
  obscured from the
  street.
- In the last twenty years in the UK and other countries there has been a move away from frosted glass towards clear glass.







- The history of pubs can be traced back to Roman taverns.
- The 18th century saw a huge growth in the number of drinking establishments, primarily due to the introduction of gin.



Many of London' s pubs are known to have been used by famous people.

