

LONDON

City, capital of the United Kingdom and the centre of the Commonwealth. It lies astride the River Thames in southeastern England, 80 km from the river's estuary on the North Sea. The city was once the industrial, commercial, and political hub of a wealthy and extensive empire; it continues to be the United



HISTORY

Founded by the Romans as Londinium in the 1st century AD, the town experienced tremendous growth in trade and population during the late 16th and early 17th centuries. Extensive building projects were initiated after the Great Fire of 1666, and London became the



Heavy damage from aerial bombings during World War II brought the greatest setback in the history of modern London. Reconstruction and new development restored much of the city's grandeur, and relocation of manufacturing and shipping outside the city shrank its population and hastened its transition to a centre of



The City of London

The City of London, about 2.7 square km in area, is the core of an area called Inner, or Central, London, which contains the City of London and the Corporation of Greater London.



Mansion house



Lombard Street



The central point in the City of London is an open space from which eight streets radiate. On the southern side is Mansion House, residence of the lord mayor of London. Lombard Street, the traditional banking street, is nearby, as are the Bank of England headquarters, the Royal Exchange,

To the east is the fortress-castle known as the Tower of London, whose core dates from the late 11th century and is surrounded by a moat. The tower is a prime example of Norman architecture.



To the west lie the Inns of Court, longtime chambers and offices of barristers and lawyers-in-training, and the Royal Courts

The Royal Courts of Justice



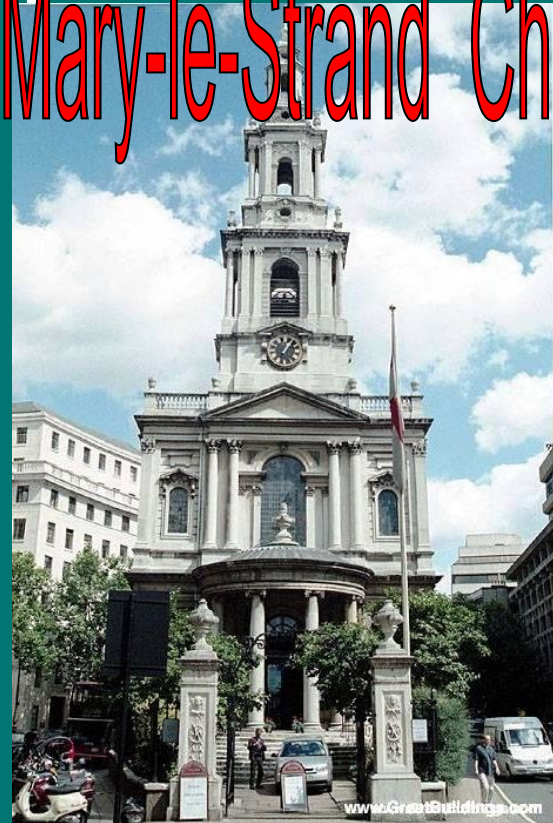
Scales of Justice above the old Baily Law Courts

The City of London and the City of Westminster are linked by the Strand, an avenue upon which are located two of London's oldest churches, St. Clement Dane's and St. Mary-le-Strand.

St. Clement Dane's Church



St. Mary-le-Strand Church



The City of Westminster

The City of Westminster, which stretches along the River Thames, is one of the country's wealthiest boroughs and is famed for its commitment to historic renovation. It includes Westminster Abbey and Westminster Cathedral, Buckingham Palace, the principal government offices, important streets, Scotland Yard, the National Gallery, and the National Museum of Natural History.



Westminster Abbey Westminster Cathedral



Buckingham Palace



National Gallery

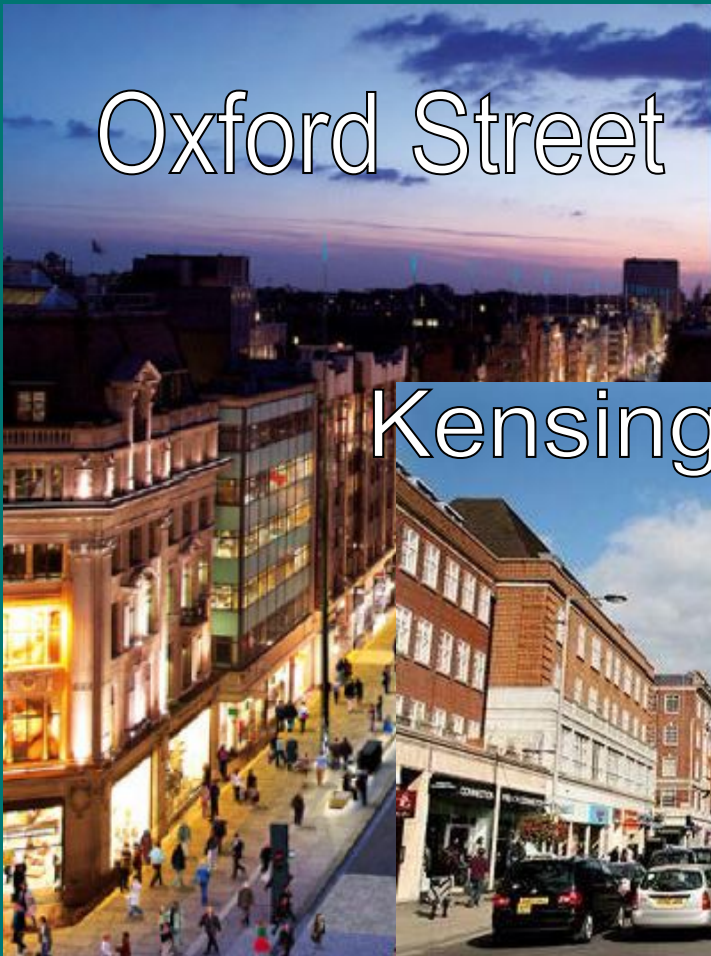


The Tate Gallery

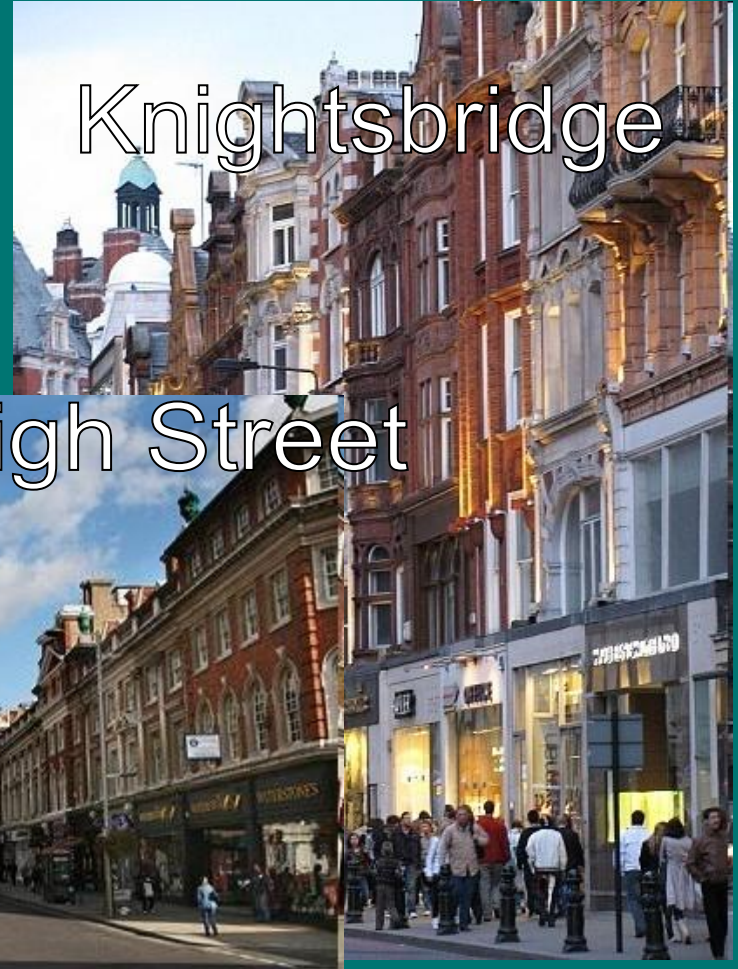


Retail shopping areas are concentrated around Oxford Street. Kensington High Street and Knightsbridge are also major

Oxford Street



Knightsbridge

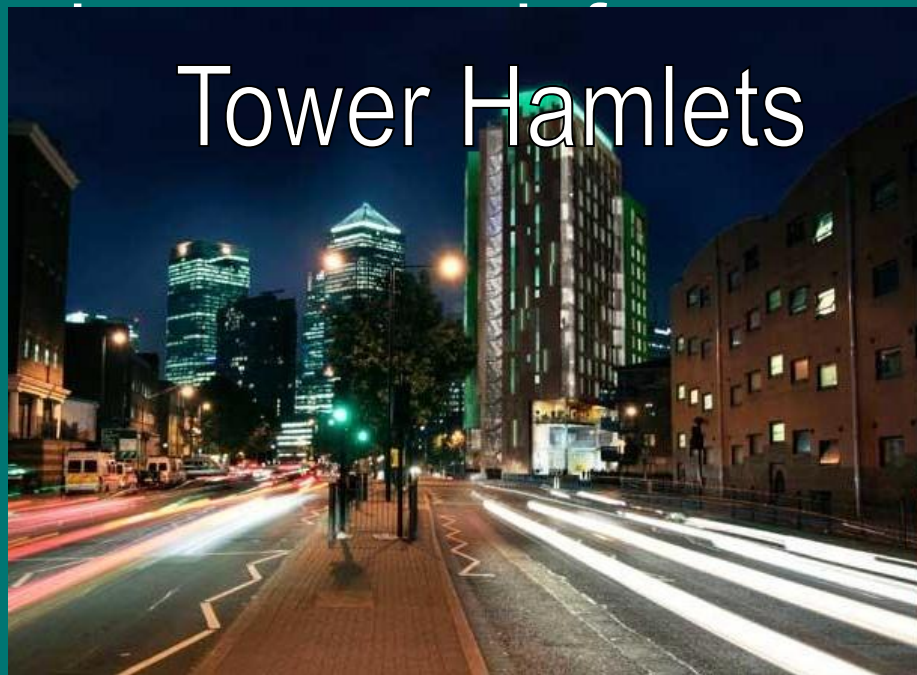


Kensington High Street

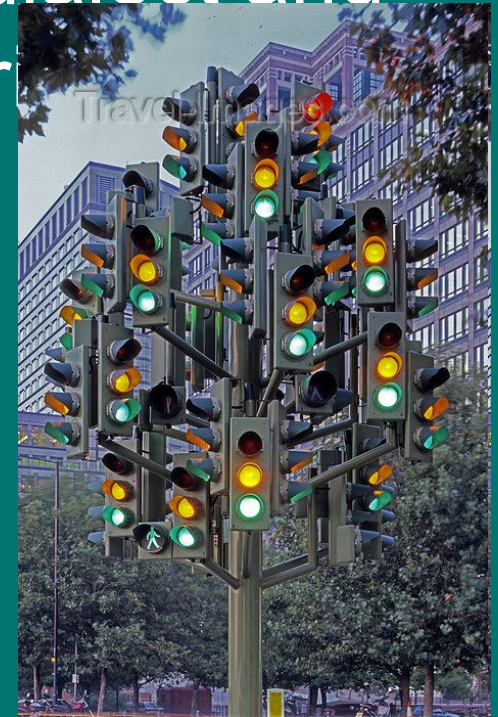


East End

London's East End, containing neighbourhoods such as Aldgate and Whitechapel, now constitutes the borough of Tower Hamlets. The area is historically associated with the Cockney dialect and



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West End



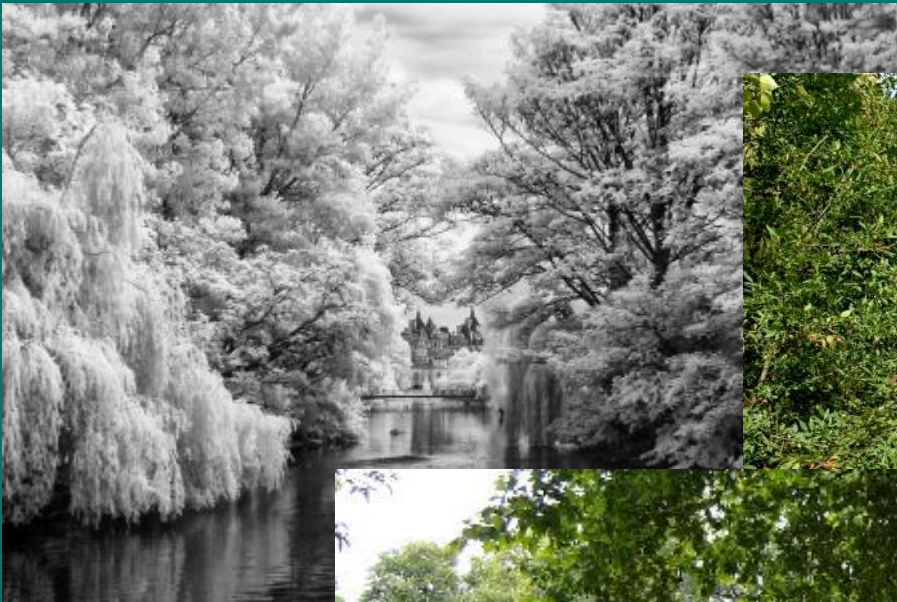
Parks, gardens, and churchyards abound in Inner London. The most celebrated parklands are the six royal parks that sweep through London's West End:

- St. James's Park, oldest of the six central royal parks, bordered on the north by the half-mile-long Mall that terminates at the

Memorial



- Buckingham Palace Gardens, bordered on the east by the royal residence



- Green Park, plainest of the royal parks but fringed on the east by lavish, once-private buildings



- Hyde Park, with its famous Speakers' Corner for soapbox orators



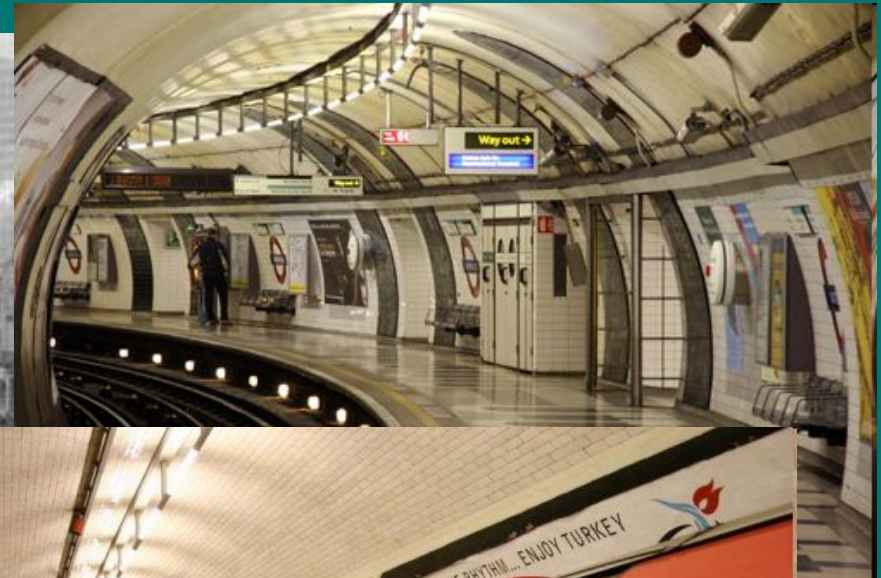
- the more elegant Kensington Gardens, with the Victorian Gothic Albert Memorial and an 80-acre (32-hectare) cultural



- Regent's Park, home of the Zoological Gardens and Regent's (Grand Union)



The development of the city's outlying areas was promoted by the opening of the world's first electric underground railway in 1863.



The London
(Heathrow)
International
Airport is
located in the
western
reaches of
Greater
London



Welcome to London