

# *THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT AND BIG BEN*



*Westminster Palace, or Houses of Parliament, one of the most famous buildings in the world, of course, is a symbol and decoration of London. Houses the bastion of English democracy, the UK Parliament House of Lords and House of Commons.*



*The first palace was built for King Edward - Confessor, came to the throne in 1042. Forty-five years later for William Rufus, son of William - Confessor built Westminster Hall - the most elegant room in Europe, where in 1099 he was made a feast. In the 13th century, Henry the third added a painted room, and during his reign first Parliament was held*



*The palace lies on the north bank of the River Thames in the London borough of the City of Westminster, close to other government buildings in Whitehall.*



*Westminster Hall has an area of 1,800 square meters. Its height is 28 meters. This is one of the greatest medieval halls, known in the architecture of Western Europe, the wooden roof which is also not supported by any supporting pillars. The span of the hall in the 21 meter width is covered with carved oak open rafters, holding on to a complex system made much ahead of wooden brackets. The shape of the floor is hard to describe.*



*Victoria Tower, which rose to a height of 104 meters, makes a royal entrance to the parliament.*



The tower was erected in 1858,  
the clock tower were set  
course 21 May 1859.





**Big Ben - the name is not the tower,  
and 13-ton bell that rings inside.**



Big Ben is the only one  
bell.  
its height  
2 meters,  
The diameter is about 3  
meters.



The tower  
61 meters (not  
counting the spire)  
hours at a height of  
55 m above the  
ground. When the  
diameter of the dial  
is  
7 meters and a length  
of the arrows in the  
2.7 and 4.2 meters,  
height of each  
number - just 61  
centimeters. watch  
long considered the  
greatest in the world.



The name Big Ben is surrounded by interesting stories. The official version: the bell is named after the chief of construction sulfur Benjamin Hall. For its impressive size foreman gave the nickname Big Ben. Another version - the bell gets its name from the athlete and boxer since Queen Victoria.



**Big Ben - the symbol of his time. The period of greatest dawn of the country. And the inscription in Latin: "God save the Queen Victoria" - a tribute of personal respect for the monarch, and in which there was such a thing as the British Empire.**



On the perimeter  
of the tower on the  
right and left of the  
clock inscribed  
another phrase in  
Latin:

«Laus Deo»  
(«Praise the Lord"  
or "Glory to God")

