

London: the History of the country stiffened in a stone



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St. Paul's cathedral

St. Paul's Cathedral is the spiritual centre of the City of London. The present structure is the fifth cathedral to be built on the site.

The architect of the baroque-style building was Sir Christopher Wren



St. Paul's has been the setting for and significant occasions in the nation's history: the funeral of Sir Winston Churchill, the celebration to mark the 25th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's reign, and the wedding of the Prince and Princess of Wales.



The Tower

The fortress built by William the Conqueror to dominate his newly captive kingdom has served as a citadel, royal palace, royal menagerie, seat of government and also the scene of some of the bloodiest events in English history. Kings and queens as well as traitors and spies have been murdered, executed, imprisoned or tortured within its walls.

The White Tower, dating from 1078, contains a spectacular collection of arms and armour. Within the White Tower is the oldest church in London, the Chapel of St John dating from 1080.

The Tower now protects the Crown Jewels.



Ceremony is still part of the daily life within the Tower. Following a 700 year tradition, each night the Chief warden locks the gates and hands the keys to the Resident Governor. Yeoman warders – “Beefeaters” – who assist today’s visitors still wear the distinctive uniform which dates from Tudor times.

Westminster Abbey

No church in Britain has been so closely connected with the Crown and the nation's history as Westminster Abbey. Coronations of every king or queen (except two) spanning 900 years have been held here.

The Abbey was refounded in the 11th century by a king - Edward the Confessor - and the strong royal link and status have been maintained ever since.



The magnificent Gothic building seen today dates largely from the 13th and 14th centuries. The twin west towers date from the 18th century.

The Abbey contains monuments to monarchs - as well as the simple black marble memorial to the "unknown warrior". St Edward the Confessor's chapel, the most sacred part of the Abbey, is the burial place of king while the sanctuary, within the altar rails, is the setting of coronations.

Then Chapter house dates from the 13th century. Called the "cradle of all free parliaments", it was the meeting place for Parliament from the 14th to the 16th centuries.



Houses of Parliament



At Westminster, on the bank of the river Thames, are the Houses of Parliament where laws governing British life are debated and enacted. The Houses of Parliament, built in Gothic style, are steeped in pomp, ceremony and splendour.

Officially known as the Palace of Westminster, the complex includes the House of Commons, the House of Lords, Westminster Hall, and the 320-foot high Clock Tower. It contains the bell Big Ben which is struck each quarter hour.

The Lords' chamber is a richly carved hall with the monarch's ornate throne. In front of the throne is the Lord Chancellor's Woolsack, a seat stuffed with the wool from Britain and the Commonwealth which has traditionally stood in the House since the time of Edward III in the 14th century. The House of Commons' chamber, completely destroyed in an air-raid in 1941, is simpler in style.

Westminster Hall, the great hall of royal palace, dates from medieval times. Outside stands a statue to Oliver Cromwell, who established the supremacy of Parliament over the monarchy in the 17th century.

Buckingham palace

Buckingham palace, the best known royal palace in the world, was built in 1703 and bought sixty years later by King George III. The rebuilding budget was wildly overspent, but the palace became the permanent London base for the court. Queen Victoria found the palace too small for her growing family so an east wing was added in 1847. This was remodeled in 1913 to the present stern but dignified classical style.



The first floor balcony is the scene of formal appearances by the Royal Family on important occasions. Below it in the forecourts, the colorful ceremony of Changing the Guard takes place.

Facing the east front, at the head of the Mall, is the Queen Victoria Memorial. The statue of the seated monarch represents a celebration of the ideals of motherhood, truth, justice, peace and progress.



Covent garden

Seven hundred years ago, this area was once a “convent garden”, supplying fruit, vegetables to the Abbey at Westminster. In the 17th century then first elegant square in London was designed on the site.

By the 18th century, Covent Garden was once again supplying fruit, vegetables and flowers – is a market.



Now, with the produce market moved to another site, Covent Garden has again become a fashionable and stylish place for strollers and browsers to visit. The renovated old market is now the centerpiece of the area, with interesting shops, craft market, bars and cafes.

Around it is St Paul’s Church, whose portico acts as an open air stage for buskers and entertainers; the London Transport Museum containing a historic collection of trains, trams and buses, a Theatre Museum reflecting all aspects of the stage from drama to pantomime and world-famous Covent Garden Royal Opera House.

The Globe Theatre

The Globe Theatre refers to one of three theatres in London associated with William Shakespeare. The original Globe Theatre was built in 1599, using timber from an earlier theatre, by the playing company, Lord Chamberlain's Men, to which Shakespeare belonged, and was destroyed by fire on June 29, 1613. The Globe Theatre was rebuilt by June 1614 and closed in 1642.



A modern reconstruction of the original Globe, named "Shakespeare's Globe Theatre" or the "New Globe Theatre," opened in 1997. It is approximately 205 meters from the site of the original theatre off Park Street.



Trafalgar Square



Nelson's Column is in the centre of the square, surrounded by fountains designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens in 1939 and four huge bronze lions sculpted by Sir Edwin Landseer.

The square, a popular site for political demonstrations, is the site of Nelson's Column as well as other statues and sculptures of note.

Trafalgar Square is a square in London, England that commemorates the Battle of Trafalgar (1805), a British naval victory of the Napoleonic Wars.

In the 1820s the Prince Regent engaged the landscape architect John Nash to redevelop the area. The present architecture of the square is due to Sir Charles Barry and was completed in 1845.



The Royal Albert Hall

The Royal Albert Hall is one of the UK's most treasured and distinctive buildings, recognisable the world over. Since its opening by Queen Victoria in 1871, the world's leading artists from every kind of performance genre have appeared on its stage. Each year it hosts more than 350 performances including classical concerts, rock and pop, ballet and opera, tennis, award ceremonies, school and community events, charity performances and lavish banquets.



The Hall was designed by Captain Francis Fowke and Colonel H.Y. Darracott Scott of the Royal Engineers. They were heavily influenced by ancient amphitheatres, but had also been exposed to the ideas of Gottfried Semper while he was working at the South Kensington Museum.

The Hall was constructed mainly of Fareham Red brick, with terra cotta block decoration. The dome on top was made of steel and glazed.



Tower Bridge

Tower Bridge is a combined bascule and suspension bridge over the River Thames. It is close to the Tower of London, which gives it its name.



Jones' engineer, Sir John Wolfe Barry devised the idea of a bascule bridge 800 feet in length with two towers each 213 feet (65 m) high, built on piers. The central span of 200 feet (61 m) between the towers was split into two equal bascules or leaves, which could be raised to an angle of 83 degrees to allow river traffic to pass.

The bascules, weighing over 1,000 tons each, were counterbalanced to minimize the force required and allow raising in five minutes.

The bridge was officially opened on 30 June 1894 by the Prince of Wales, the future King Edward VII, and his wife, Alexandra of Denmark.

Piccadilly Circus

In 1819 Piccadilly Circus was built at the junction with Regent Street, which was then being built under the planning of John Nash. The circus lost its circular form in 1886 with the construction of Shaftesbury Avenue. In this context a circus, from the Latin word meaning a circle, is a circular open space at a street junction.



The Shaftesbury Memorial Fountain in Piccadilly Circus was erected in 1893, to commemorate the philanthropic works of Anthony Ashley Cooper, 7th Earl of Shaftesbury. During the Second World War, the statue atop the Shaftesbury Memorial Fountain, The Angel of Christian Charity, was removed, and was replaced by advertising hoardings. It was returned in 1948. When the Circus underwent reconstruction work in the late 1980s, the entire fountain was moved from the centre of the junction at the beginning of Shaftesbury Avenue to its present position at the south-western corner.

21st century London

At the turn of the 21st century, London hosted the much derided Millennium Dome at Greenwich, to mark the new century.



One was the largest observation wheel in the world, the "Millennium Wheel", or the London Eye, which was erected as a temporary structure, but soon became a fixture, and draws four million visitors a year. The National Lottery also released a flood of funds for major enhancements to existing attractions, for example the roofing of the Great Court at the British Museum.



Оглавление



Собор Святого Павла

Собор Святого Павла- духовный центр Лондона. Существующая собор - пятый который был основан участок. Архитектор здания в стиле барокко был сэра Кристофер Врен.



Собор служил театром для важнейших событий в национальной истории: похороны сэра Уинстона Черчилля, празднование, 25-й годовщины господство Королевы II's Элизабет, и свадьба Принца и Принцессы Уэльса.

Тауэр

Крепость, построенная Вильгельмом Завоевателем, чтобы доминировать над его недавно пленным королевством служила цитаделью, королевским дворцом, королевским зверинцем, местом правительства и также сценой для самых кровавых событий в английской истории. Короли и Королевы также как предатели и шпионы были убиты, наказаны, заключены в тюрьму или замучены в пределах его стен.

Белая Башня, датируясь от 1078, содержит захватывающее собрание рук{*оружия*} и вооружать наш. В пределах Белой Башни - самая старая церковь в Лондоне, Часовня С-Джон, датирующийся от 1080.

Башня теперь защищает Драгоценные камни Короны.



Церемония - все еще часть ежедневной жизни в пределах Башни. После 700-летней традиции, каждую ночь Главный warder запирает ворота и вручает ключи Губернатору Резиденции. Yeoman warders - "Beefeaters" – те, кто помогают сегодняшним посетителям все еще носить отличительную униформу времен Тюдоров.

Вестминстерское Аббатство

Никакая церковь в Англии не была так близко связана с Коронай и национальной историей как Вестминстерское Аббатство. Коронации каждого короля или королевы (кроме двух) в течении 900 лет были проведены здесь.

Аббатство было повторно основано в 11-ом столетии королем - Эдвардом Исповедником - и связь с короной и статус был поддержан с тех пор.



Великолепное Готическое здание, которое стоит сегодня, в значительной степени с 13-ых и 14-ых столетий. западные башни-близнецы Дата 18-ого столетия.

В Аббатстве рядом с памятниками монархам - простой черный мраморный мемориал "неизвестному воину". Часовня Святого Эдварда Исповедника - наиболее священная часть Аббатства, является местом погребения короля.

Тогда дом Главы, называемый "колыбель всех свободных парламентов", датируется 13-м столетием.

Houses of Parliament

В Вестминстере, на берегу реки Темза, находится Здание Парламента, где обсуждаются и издаются законы, управляющие жизнью Британии. Дом Парламента, построен в Готическом стиле, погружены в великолепии, церемонии и блеске.

Официально известный как Дворец Вестминстера, комплекс включает Палату общин, Палату лордов, Вестминстерский Зал, и Башню Часов Биг Бен 320 футов высотой.

Палата Лордов - богато украшенный зал с декоративным тронном монарха. Перед тронном - место Лорда-канцлера Вулсак, наполненное шерстью из Англии и Содружества наций, которое традиционно стояло в Доме Парламента начиная со времен Эдварда III. Палат общин, полностью разрушенная в воздушном налете в 1941, более проста в стиле.

Вестминстерский Зал, большой зал королевского дворца, остался со средневековых времен, кроме статуи Оливера Кромвеля, установившего превосходство Парламента над монархией в 17-ом столетии.



Букингемский дворец

Букингемский дворец, известнейший королевский дворец мира, был построен в 1703 и куплен шестьюдесятью годами позже Королем Георгом III. Бюджет реконструкции был разорителен, но дворец стал постоянной Лондонской резиденцией для суда.

Королева Виктория нашла дворец слишком маленьким для ее семейства, так в 1847 было добавлено восточное крыло, в строгом классическом стиле.



Балкон первого этажа - сцена формальных появлений Королевского Семейства в важных случаях, а под ним, на передних площадках, - красочная церемония замены Охраны.

Рядом с восточным крылом, в голове Аллеи, - Мемориал королевы Виктории, как символ торжества идеалов материнства, правды, правосудия, мира и прогресса.

Ковен-Гарден

Семьсот лет назад, на этом месте находился сад женского монастыря, поставлявший продукты в Аббатство в Вестминстере. В 17-ом столетии здесь была спроецирована первая элегантная площадь Лондона.

К 18-ому столетию, Ковен-Гарден еще поставлял снабжал плоды, овощи и цветы – в этом районе находился рынок.



Теперь, Ковен-Гарден вновь стал фешенебельным и элегантным местом для бродяг и туристов. Отремонтированный старый рынок - теперь центр района, с интересными магазинами, ремесленным рынком, барами и кафе.

Вокруг этого - Церковь Святого-Павла, Лондонский Транспортный Музей, содержащий историческое собрание поездов, трамваев и автобусов, Театральный Музей, отражающий все аспекты стадии от драмы до пантомимы и известный на весь мир Королевский Дом Оперы Ковент-Гардена.