Buckingham Palace

The palace has got over 600 rooms, a throne room, a very long ball room, a picture gallery and a swimming pool. The Royal family and their staff members live in only one part of the palace.

In summer tourists can visit parts of the palace when the Royal family is spending its holidays in Scotland, but most tourists come for the *Changing of the Guards*, which you can see in front of the palace at 11 o'clock every day.

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Covent Garden

Covent Garden was a big fruit and vegetable market in the middle of London. Now there are small shops, market stalls, restaurants and bars inside. You can go shopping, eat and drink there.

It is interesting to watch street artists, who juggle, sing or simply do funny things. There are nice shops in the area around *Covent Garden* too. and the *Royal Opera House*.

The London Eye

It is one of the biggest wheels in the world. You can have a look over London from the highest point of 135m and see different sights like *St. Paul's Cathedral*, the *Houses of Parliament*, *Buckingham Palace*. The London Eye is at the *River Thames*. A ride takes about 35 minutes and a ticket costs 16.10£ or more. You can sit or stand in a passenger capsule which can carry up to 25 people. As the wheel never stops you have to walk into the capsule while the wheel keeps moving.

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The Tower

The *Tower* is a very old palace. The oldest part is nearly over 1000 years old. Today you can see a lot of armour and weapons, the ravens and the special soldiers who look after the Tower. These soldiers are called *Beefeaters*. Most people come to see the *Crown Jewels*.

You must pay to get in. The entrance fee is 12£, if you book online 10.50£.

Tower Bridge

London has a lot of bridges over the *River Thames* but *Tower Bridge* is the most famous. It was built in 1894 and it is over 265 metres long. It can open up for large ships. Today it opens up about one thousand times a year. Inside the bridge you can see an exhibition about the bridge's history but you must pay 6.30£ to get in. This is the price for children under 15. You always need an adult to accompany you.

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Piccadilly Circus

This round public place was built in 1819 to connect streets. So there is a lot of traffic all the time. *Piccadilly Circus* is famous for its video displays and neon signs and for the fountain in the middle.

Trafalgar Square

People like to sit and relax in *Trafalgar Square* because of the large fountains. They can also look at the *Lord Nelson Column* with its four lions. If you like art you can visit the *National Gallery* at the north side of the place. It shows pictures of the world's most famous painters. The museum is free.

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The Natural History Museum

If you are interested in dinosaurs and animals of all kinds, you must visit the *Natural History Museum*. You can come and see scary dinosaurs and meet a T-Rex or look at the skeleton of a Diplodocus in the entrance hall. The model of a blue whale and the skeleton of a sperm whale are also quite impressive. You can even look inside the human body and check up on the powers within the earth. The museum is free.

The British Museum

If you love history, the British museum is the place to go to. It is England's biggest museum and one of the oldest and finest ones in the world. You can see old works of art and parts of temples. It is one of London's most visited attractions. Over six million visitors come every year. Many people like the real mummies. The museum is very big and you have to decide what you want to see. But you can come as often as you want because the museum is free.

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The Tate Gallery of Modern Art

You should visit the *Tate Gallery* of *Modern Art* and have a good look at really interesting modern art. The building was an old power station until 1981. You can have a fantastic view over London and the *River Thames* from the seventh floor. Visitors don't have to pay to get in.

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Madame Tussauds

At *Madame Tussauds* you can see wax figures of the most famous film stars, pop stars, comic characters and sports people of the world in their original clothes. Many people use the chance and take a selfie of themselves with one of their favourite celebrities. You can visit the *Chamber of Horrors and Screams* if you like to be scared. Unfortunately, it is rather expensive to visit Madame Tussauds. A ticket costs 20.65£ if you book online, otherwise you'll have to pay 29.50£.

The Houses of Parliament

The *Houses of Parliament* are officially called the *Palace of Westminster*.

This is the place where the British politicians come together. In one room the 650 members of the *House of Commons* meet. In the other room the 763 members of the *House of Lords* meet. Both houses talk and vote on laws before the Queen finally has to say "yes" to the laws. You can visit the Houses at Easter, in summer and at Christmas when you book a 90-minute tour for 11£ (for children up to 15).

Big Ben

The most famous part of the palace is its clock tower, called *Elizabeth Tower*. In this tower there is the big 13.5-ton bell called Big Ben. You can hear it every quarter of an hour.

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The Tube

This is London's secret star and you can't move around without it. The *Tube* transports three million people every day. It was built in the 19th century. The first line opened in 1863. Steam engines pulled the first trains and the smoke was horrible. Later the trains were electrified. During the war many people stayed in the tube stations when the bombs fell. Today the modern trains still use the old tunnels.

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Sherlock Holmes Museum

Sherlock Holmes is the world's most famous detective.

Surprisingly, he never really existed, but is only a character in a book. In the story he solves difficult cases with his good friend Dr Watson.

Because Sherlock Homes is so famous there is a museum about Sherlock Holmes at 221 b Baker Street. At the museum you can see his study on the 1st floor. You have to pay 10£ to get in.

St. Paul's Cathedral

The cathedral you can see today was built about 300 years ago, but it is already the fourth cathedral in this place.

Important events at the cathedral have been the funerals and weddings of famous and often historically important people as well as peace services at the end of the two World Wars.

You should have a look at the *Whispering Gallery*. If you whisper here, you can hear it on the opposite side.

Although it is a church, you have to pay 8£ to get in.

Greenwich

Greenwich is known for the Meridian Line. This is a time line. When it is 12 o' clock in Greenwich, it's one o' clock in Germany. Here in Greenwich is the place where the earth is divided into the Eastern and the Western part. At the Royal Observatory you can stand over the line with one foot in the east and one foot in the west.