

Must goes in London

1.Covent Garden

Enjoy a wide range of shopping, theatre, bars, restaurants, hotels, street artists and culture in Central London's Covent Garden district.

Covent Garden in London's West End is a popular destination for visitors and Londoners who enjoy shopping, theatre, restaurants, bars, street artists, history and culture.



Geographically, Covent Garden is located in Central London, bordered by the City of London and Leicester Square. It is within walking distance of Soho, the river Thames and Trafalgar Square.

There are several smaller areas within Covent Garden that are worth exploring such as the traffic-free Covent Garden market piazza, The Opera Quarter, St Martin's Courtyard, Seven Dials, Neal's Yard, and Floral Street.



Things to see in and around Covent Garden

You will find many of London's top attractions in Covent Garden and the surrounding area:

- The Royal Opera House home of The Royal Ballet
- Covent Garden Market
- St Martin-in-the-Fields Church
- Somerset House including The Courtauld Gallery
- Leicester Square
- Trafalgar Square
- National Gallery

Covent Garden is also well known for its street theatre in the piazza area.



Shopping

Look for the latest fashion, shoes, cosmetics, art and crafts in Covent Garden.

The area has become a destination for premium brands such as Burberry and Apple Store Covent Garden. Explore Covent Garden shops in The Opera Quarter, St Martin's Courtyard, Seven Dials and Neal's Yard.

At the heart of Covent Garden is the market with its quirky craft stalls and emerging designer boutiques.

Restaurants and Bars

There's a diverse range of Covent Garden restaurants and bars: from Indian meals at Masala Zone and Dishoom, to Mexican street food at Wahaca, to late night cocktails at Dirty Martini and a huge range of beers at The Porterhouse.

Enjoy a cheap pre-theatre pizza at Fire and Stone or Italian at Spaghetti House St Martin's Lane; take in the people-watching potential of Scoff & Banter or Tutttons; or splash out on an elegant meal at Michelin-starred L'Atelier De Joel Robuchon or Rules, London's oldest restaurant.



2. Buckingham Palace



Buckingham Palace is the working headquarters of the monarchy, where The Queen carries out her official and ceremonial duties as Head of State of the United Kingdom and Head of the Commonwealth. It is one of the few remaining working royal palaces in the world today. The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh live in the private apartments on the north side of the Palace. Rooms on the upper floors of the north and east sides are occupied by other members of the Royal Family. Much of the ground floor and the south wing of the Palace are used by Household officials. The State Rooms used for court ceremonies and official entertaining occupy the main west block facing the gardens.

The Queen receives a large number of formal and informal visitors to the Palace, including the Prime Minister at weekly audiences. Investitures regularly take place in the Ballroom and more than 50,000 people visit the Palace each year as guests to banquets, lunches, dinners, receptions and the royal garden parties which are attended by some 30,000 guests.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh are the Palace's longest residents. In 1993 The Queen gave approval for Buckingham Palace to open its doors to the paying public for the first time to raise funds for the restoration of Windsor Castle following the fire of November 1992. The 19 State Rooms are open to the

public annually as part of the Buckingham Palace Summer Opening between August and September.

The palace was built in 1705 as the town house of the Duke of Buckingham.

It was known as Buckingham House but was bought by George III for wife Queen Charlotte, when it became known as "The Queen's House".

Buckingham Palace has been the official London residence of Britain's monarchs since 1837.

Queen Victoria was the first resident of this imposing building.

Very famous is the Changing of the Guard. Every day (from April to July) you can see the Changing of the Guard at 11.30 a.m. It's very spectacular and many tourists are watching that.



Remember, if the Union Flag is raised the Queen is at home; if it's lowered, she is out.

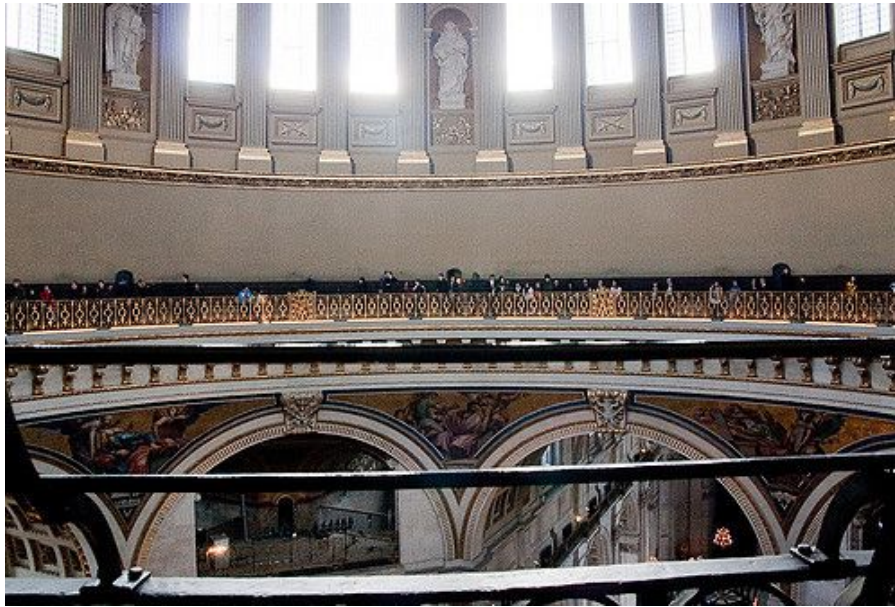
3. St. Paul's Cathedral

In the Great Fire in 1666 the original wooden cathedral burnt down. So they built in the late 17th century a new one designed by Sir Christopher Wren. The dome is the second largest in the world only the St. Peter's Basilica one is bigger.



The 521-step climb is well worth it. At the top you can see more or less the whole of London stretched out.

About halfway up the inside of the dome is the Whispering Gallery. You should try it: stand on the one side of the Gallery while a friend goes to the other. Now, providing it's quiet enough, you should be able to whisper something to the wall on your side and have your friend hear it quiet clearly on the other, 107 ft away.



The cathedral is also famous for the crypt, which is the largest in Europe. There you can find the tombs of many of Britain's greatest military leaders, e.g. Admiral Lord Nelson.



4. Some other important sights



The Tower of London



The Tower Bridge



Elisabeth Tower with
the Big Ben



The Houses of Parliament



The Globe Theatre



The London Dungeon



London Eye



Harrods



Madame Tussauds London



The Londonbridge Experience