

PROMPT  
GUIDES



# 1-day London City Guide

A preplanned step-by-step time line  
and city guide for London.  
Follow it and get the best of the city.



# Other Destinations

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# Overview of Day 1

	<p><b>LEAVE HOTEL</b> <a href="#">Tested and recommended hotels in London &gt;</a></p> <p>Take Northern Line or Metropolitan Line to Charing Cross station</p>	
09:00-09:15	<p><b>Trafalgar Square</b></p> <p>Take a walk along the Whitehall to Nr. 10 Downing street - 10'</p>	<p>One of the most famous squares in the world</p> <p>Page 6</p>
09:25-09:35	<p><b>Nr.10 Downing Street</b></p> <p>Take a walk to Parliament Square - 10'</p>	<p>Official home and office of Britain's Prime Minister</p> <p>Page 6</p>
09:45-09:55	<p><b>Big Ben</b></p>	<p>One of London's best-known landmarks</p> <p>Page 6</p>
09:55-10:05	<p><b>Houses of Parliament</b></p>	<p>One of London's most impressive building</p> <p>Page 7</p>
10:05-10:15	<p><b>Westminster Bridge</b></p> <p>Take a walk to Westminster Abbey - 10'</p>	<p>Excellent spot for taking photos of Big Ben and Houses of Parliament</p> <p>Page 7</p>
10:25-11:55	<p><b>Westminster Abbey</b></p> <p>Take a walk to Buckingham Palace - 20'</p>	<p>One of the finest examples of medieval architecture in Europe</p> <p>Page 7</p>
12:15-12:45	<p><b>Buckingham Palace</b></p> <p>Take a walk to Hyde Park Corner Take any bus from London Hilton Hotel stop to Marble Arch station - 20' in all</p>	<p>One of London's best recognized landmarks</p> <p>Page 8</p>
13:05-13:15	<p><b>Marble Arch</b></p> <p><b>Lunch time</b> Take a walk to Oxford Street</p>	<p>Interesting piece of architecture</p> <p>Page 8</p>
14:00-15:50	<p><b>Oxford Street and Oxford Circus</b></p> <p>Take Bus line 6 from Oxford Circus stop to Picadilly Circus stop (Direction: Aldwych) - 10'</p>	<p>One of the busiest shopping streets in Europe</p> <p>Page 8</p>
16:00-16:20	<p><b>Piccadilly Circus</b></p> <p>Take Piccadilly Line from Piccadilly Circus station to Knightsbridge station (Direction: Heathrow) Take a walk to the Harrods - 40'</p>	<p>One of London's best known landmarks</p> <p>Page 9</p>
17:00-18:00	<p><b>Harrods</b></p>	<p>One of the world's most famous department stores</p> <p>Page 9</p>

*Itinerary continues on next page*

18:40-18:55

Take Bus line 14 from Harrods stop to South Kensington station (Direction: Putney Heath)  
Change to Circle or District Line to Tower Hill station (Direction: Upminster) - 40'

**Tower Bridge**

One of the most recognized bridges in the world

Page 9

Take Circle or District Line from Tower Hill station to Westminster station (Direction: Ealing Broadway)  
Take a walk through the Westminster Bridge to London Eye - 35'

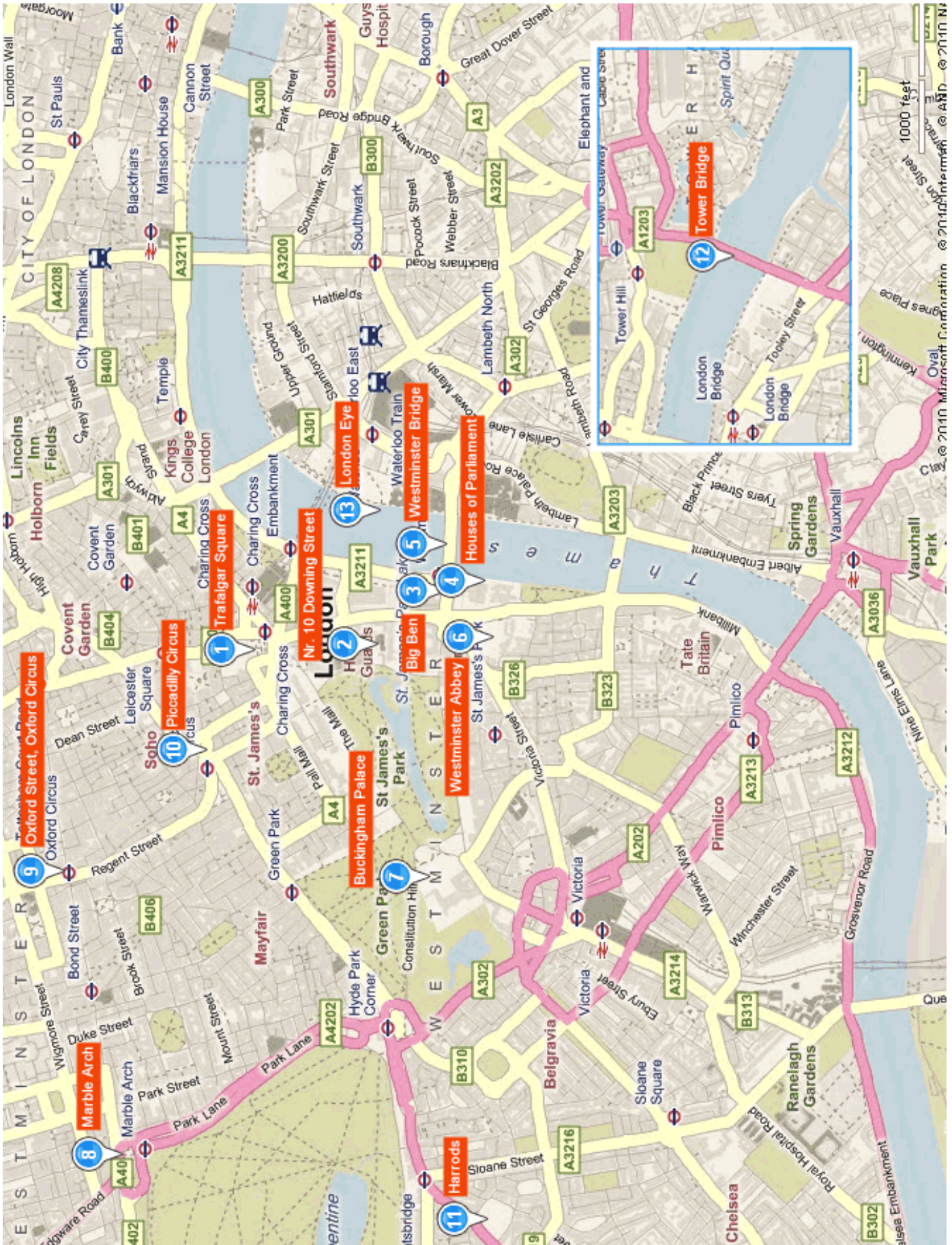
19:30-20:30

**London Eye**

Quickly became a London icon

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**END OF DAY 1**



## Attraction Details

09:00-09:15



### Trafalgar Square (Trafalgar Square, City of London, London, WC2N 5DN)

#### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Trafalgar Square, in central London, is one of the best known squares in the world
- In the middle stands the Nelson's Column
- The square pays tribute to the Battle of Trafalgar (1805)
- In the battle Admiral Nelson defeated Napoleon's fleet
- The square is an important hub of the West End

#### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Take a walk around the square

- Take some photos of the statues and fountains

#### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- The public toilets on the square are very clean
- The square looks splendid when illuminated at night

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

09:25-09:35



### Nr.10 Downing Street (10 Downing Street, London, SW1A 2AA)

#### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- No. 10 Downing Street is the official home and office of Britain's Prime Minister
- It is one of four surviving houses built in 1680 for Sir George Downing
- Sir Downing was an important figure of the English Civil War
- The building contains a State Dining Room and the Cabinet Room, where government ministers meet to formulate policy
- No. 11 is the residence of the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister)
- The famous black door can only be opened from the inside

- The street was closed down for security reasons in 1989

#### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Have a look at the building looking through the gates from Whitehall
- Have your photo taken with the house in the background

#### TIPS & INSIGHTS

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

09:45-09:55



### Big Ben (Palace of Westminster House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA)

#### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Big Ben, built in 1858, is the iconic clock tower of Palace of Westminster (Houses of Parliament)
- The tower's name refers to the clock's 14-tonne bell
- The bell is called Big Ben after Sir Benjamin Hall, the chief commissioner of the works
- Some argue that the tower is named after Benjamin Caunt, a famous boxer of the period

- The tower resisted German bombing and continued to keep time during the war

#### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Have your photo taken with Big Ben in the background
- Listen to Big Ben strike the hour

#### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- Only UK citizens can go up to the tower

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

09:55-10:05



## Houses of Parliament (Palace of Westminster House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA)

### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Houses of Parliament (also known as Palace of Westminster) are the political heart of the city and the UK
- The original palace, built approx. thousand years ago, was destroyed by fire in 1834
- The current one having 1,100 rooms and 11 courtyards was built in 1840
- It is home to the House of Commons and the House of Lords
- 659 publicly elected Members of Parliament sit and pass legislatures in the House of Commons
- House of Lords with approx. 700 members is an unelected body that has limited power
- Part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1987

- Its famous clock tower is called Big Ben

### THINGS TO DO THERE

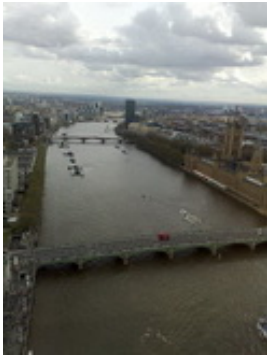
- Admire the majestic building from the outside
- For the best photo spot walk through the Westminster Bridge to the other side of the Thames

### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- UK citizens can take guided tours on select days throughout the year
- Non-UK citizens can take guided tours only during Parliament's summer break
- You may observe debates for free from the Stranger's Galleries in both houses

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

10:05-10:15



## Westminster Bridge (Between Westminster, Middlesex bank, and Lambeth, Surrey bank)

### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Westminster Bridge arches over the River Thames next to the Houses of Parliament
- It links the Palace of Westminster (west bank) with County Hall and the London Eye (east bank)
- The bridge was designed by the Swiss architect Charles Labelye and built between 1739 and 1750
- It is made entirely of stone
- London Marathon used to finish here in the early years of the race

### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Walk along the bridge and take pictures of the famous London landmarks: Parliament, Big Ben, London Eye and the River Thames

### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- You can buy great pancakes at the west bank foot of the bridge
- Return to the bridge after dawn to enjoy the beautiful view of the illuminated city

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

10:25-11:55



## Westminster Abbey (20 Dean's Yard, City of London SW1P 3PA, UK)

**Opening hours:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9:30am - 4:30pm, Wednesday: 9:30am - 7pm, Saturday: 9:30am - 2:30pm • **Admission:** 16 £

### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- One of the finest examples of medieval architecture in Europe
- The church was founded in 1065 as a Benedictine abbey by Edward the Confessor
- It is a place for royal ceremonies. Numerous coronations were held here including Queen Elizabeth's (1953)
- Also a burial place for royals, important statesmen and literary figures. Princess Diana's funeral (1997) took place in the church too
- Houses more than 3,000 memorials to kings and significant figures of British history (William the Conqueror, Edward III, Mary Queen of Scots or Elizabeth I)

- Admire the interior of the church
- Pay particular attention to the Gothic ceilings and the stained glass of the Chapter House
- Do not miss the Coronation Chair and the Poet's Corner (memorial place dedicated to literary figures such as Dickens)

### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- On Sundays the abbey is open only for worship (free entrance)
- Great audioguide narrated by Jeremy Irons
- Please note that it is not allowed to take photos inside
- Verger-led tours are available for additional £3.00

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Pick up your free audio guide (included in entrance fee)

## Attraction Details

12:15-12:45



## Buckingham Palace

 (13 Buckingham Palace Rd, Westminster, London SW1W 0, UK)

Opening hours: July 23 - Oct 3: 9:30am - 6:30pm • Admission: 17.5 £

### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Buckingham Palace was built as a town house for the first duke of Buckingham in 1705 and extended into a palace by George IV between 1824 and 1831
- It is home to the present Queen. It has been the official London residence of Britain's monarchs since 1837
- It houses 775 rooms and has a staff of around 300
- If the royal flag is flying, it means that the queen is at home
- It is used to receive and entertain guests on state, ceremonial and official occasions

### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Admire the palace through the gates
- Do not miss the golden statue of queen Victoria on the square in front of the palace

### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- If you arrive at the right time you can enjoy the traditional Guard Change
- The Guard Change takes place in front of the castle at 11.30am daily from April until the end of July and on alternate days for the rest of the year, weather permitting
- The 19 State Rooms, the Royal Mews and The Queen's Gallery are open to the public each year for most of August and September while the queen is in Scotland
- You can [book your ticket online](#)

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

13:05-13:15



## Marble Arch

 (Marble Arch, W1H)

### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Marble Arch is a white Carrara-marble monument in West London
- Only the royal family, the King's Troop, and the Royal Horse Artillery used to be allowed to pass through it
- The arch used to be a gateway to the Buckingham Palace before having been moved to its current location in 1851

### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Have your photo taken in front of this famous London landmark

### TIPS & INSIGHTS

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

14:00-15:50



## Oxford Street and Oxford Circus

 (Oxford Circus, Westminster, London, W1)

### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Oxford Street is London's major and most famous shopping street
- It is home to major department and flagship stores and smaller shops
- Some of the brands represented are Marks&Spencer, Zara, Nike and H&M
- Fine cuisine restaurants, pubs and theaters are also located on the street
- At Oxford Circus there is a notable diagonal pedestrian crossing, opened in 2009, the only one of its kind in central London

### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Walk along this famous shopping street enjoying its unique atmosphere

- Refresh your wardrobe with a few new trendy items
- Have a coffee break after the tiresome shopping

### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- Expect the street to be crowded
- The street is especially charming at Christmas time with its decoration and illumination
- If you have the time, take a red double decker bus and ride along for a unique London experience

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)



16:00-16:20

## Piccadilly Circus (Piccadilly Circus, London, W1J 9HS)



### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Piccadilly Circus is a square in Central London that is best known for its neon advertising displays
- It is a popular meeting place among Londoners
- The Eros statue in the middle is a memorial to the Earl of Shaftesbury
- The square is the entrance to London's entertaining district

### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Look around the square for great photo themes

- You can not miss the famous neon advertisements

### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- For discount shopping visit the 5-story sporting goods store, Lillywhite's

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

17:00-18:00

## Harrods (87-135 Brompton Road, Knightsbridge, London, SW1X 7XL)

**Opening hours:** Monday - Saturday: 10am - 8pm, Sunday: 11:30am - 6pm

### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- London's most famous and exclusive department store
- It was established in 1849 as a tiny grocery store employing two assistants
- Today, it offers everything from food to fashion, furniture to sportswear plus 20 in-store restaurants serving every kind of cuisine imaginable from pizza to sushi
- An Egyptian theme decorates the central well, at the bottom of which is a shrine to Diana, Princess of Wales and Dodi Al Fayed

### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Discover the exclusive store
- You might even do some shopping
- Must-see sights include the Food Halls, the Egyptian Hall and the Pet Department

### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- After dawn you can enjoy the striking view of the building illuminated with 11,500 light bulbs

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)



18:40-18:55

## Tower Bridge (Tower Bridge London SE1 2UP)

**Opening hours:** April - September: 10am - 6.30pm, October - March : 9:30am - 6pm • **Admission:** 8 £

### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Tower Bridge is a bascule bridge next to Towers of London. It was opened in 1894
- The bridge can be raised for ships to pass under it
- The massive mechanics (steam engine and hydraulics) that moved the bridge was an unbelievable technical breakthrough of its time
- It takes only 86 sec to raise the bridge
- It was built in a neo-Gothic style and designed to harmonize with Towers of London

### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Take photos of this symbol of London
- Enjoy the bridge being raised (if you are lucky)

### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- As part of the Tower Bridge Exhibition, visitors can climb up to the top of the bridge for a bird's-eye view of the Tower of London and the Thames (43m)
- After dawn the bridge is beautifully illuminated

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)



## Attraction Details

19:30-20:30



## London Eye (Riverside Building, County Hall, Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7PB)

**Opening hours:** September - March: 10am - 8:30pm, April - June: 10am - 9pm, July - August: 10am - 9:30pm • **Admission:** 18.60 £

### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- London Eye is the world's highest observation wheel
- It is located opposite to the Houses of Parliament on the other side of the Thames
- There are 32 capsules with total visibility in all directions
- It takes 30 min to ride London Eye
- The wheel was built to celebrate the Millennium year (2001) and planned for 5 years

### THINGS TO DO THERE

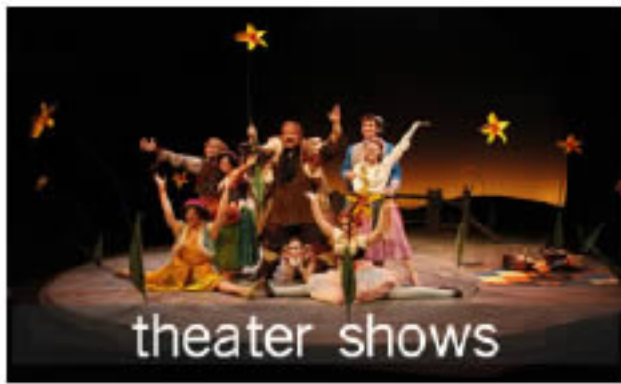
- Ride the wheel and enjoy the fantastic view over London

- Take photos of yourself with London Eye in the background

### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- Before making your online booking consult the weather forecast. For the best experience it is advised to go on a bright day
- [Book online](#) and combine your 'Flight' with other attractions (for example: Madam Tussauds) to save money

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)



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### Map

<http://www.bing.com/maps>

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