

PROMPT  
GUIDES



5 days



# 5-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

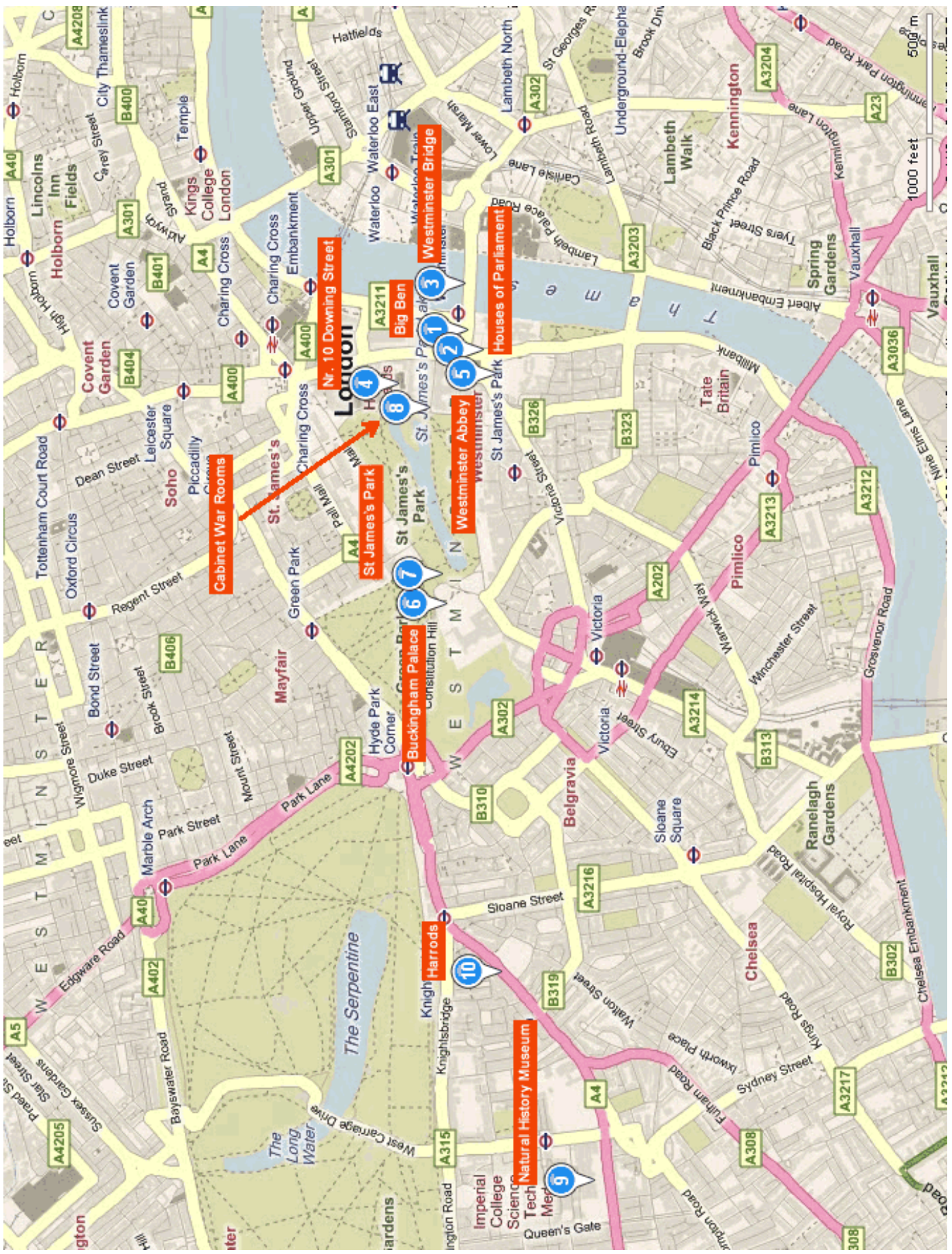
London, Barcelona, Paris, Boston,  
Athens, Amsterdam, Rome,  
Budapest ...and more

[See all PromptGuides destinations >](#)

# Overview of Day 1

	<p><b>LEAVE HOTEL</b> <a href="#">Tested and recommended hotels in London &gt;</a></p> <p>Take subway or bus to Westminster station</p>	
09:00-09:10	<p><b>Big Ben</b> —————</p> <p>Houses of Parliament is next to Big Ben</p>	<p>One of London's best-known landmarks</p> <p>Page 5</p>
09:10-09:20	<p><b>Houses of Parliament</b> —————</p> <p>Westminster Bridge is next to Houses of Parliament</p>	<p>One of London's most impressive building</p> <p>Page 5</p>
09:20-09:30	<p><b>Westminster Bridge</b> —————</p> <p>Take a walk to Nr.10 Downing Street - 5'</p>	<p>Excellent spot for taking photos of Big Ben and Houses of Parliament</p> <p>Page 5</p>
09:35-09:45	<p><b>Nr.10 Downing Street</b> —————</p> <p>Take a walk to Westminster Abbey - 5'</p>	<p>Official home and office of Britain's Prime Minister</p> <p>Page 6</p>
09:50-11:20	<p><b>Westminster Abbey</b> —————</p> <p>Take Bus line 148 from Parliament Square/Westminster Abbey stop to Hyde Park Corner stop (Direction: White City Bus Station)</p> <p>Take a walk to Buckingham Palace - 10' in all</p>	<p>One of the finest examples of medieval architecture in Europe</p> <p>Page 6</p>
11:30-12:00	<p><b>Buckingham Palace</b> —————</p> <p>Take a walk to St. James's Park - 5'</p>	<p>One of London's best recognized landmarks</p> <p>Page 7</p>
12:05-12:35	<p><b>St. James's Park</b> —————</p> <p>Lunch time</p> <p>Take a walk to Cabinet War Rooms</p>	<p>Lovely park with a duck and pelican pond</p> <p>Page 7</p>
13:45-15:15	<p><b>Cabinet War Rooms</b> —————</p> <p>Take a walk to Westminster station</p> <p>Take Circle or District Line to South Kensington station (Direction: Upminster)</p>	<p>Unique historical place</p> <p>Page 7</p>
15:45-17:45	<p><b>Natural History Museum</b> —————</p> <p>Take a walk to South Kensington station</p> <p>Take Bus line 14 to Harrods stop (Direction: Warren Street Station - 20' in all)</p>	<p>One of the world's best natural history museums</p> <p>Page 8</p>
18:05-19:05	<p><b>Harrods</b> —————</p>	<p>One of the world's most famous department stores</p> <p>Page 8</p>
	<p><b>END OF DAY 1</b></p>	

Overview of Day 1



## Attraction Details

09:00-09:10



### 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 >](#)

09:10-09:20



### 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 >](#)

09:20-09:30



### 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 >](#)

## Attraction Details

09:35-09:45



## 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 >](#)

09:50-11:20



## 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 ceremonials. 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)

11:30-12:00

**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

- If you arrive at the right time you can enjoy the traditional Guard Change

**TIPS & INSIGHTS**

- 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 >](#)

12:05-12:35

**St. James's Park** (St James's Park, London, SW1A 2BJ)**Opening hours:** All year round: 5am - midnight**THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW**

- St James's Park is at the very heart of London. Often used for ceremonial and state occasions, the Park is a fantastic setting for pomp and splendour
- It was laid out in the 18th century
- Some claim St James's Park is London's prettiest and most elegant park
- The park used to be a notorious place frequented by a large number of prostitutes and brave duelists

**THINGS TO DO THERE**

- Take a walk through this lovely garden

- The big pond in the middle is full of water fowl of varied species, even a pelican
- Have a rest on one of the plenty beach chairs in the middle of the park

**TIPS & INSIGHTS**

- Take some bread with you for the birds, and nuts for the squirrels

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

13:45-15:15

**Cabinet War Rooms** (King Charles Street, London, SW1A 2AQ)**Opening hours:** Daily: 9:30am - 6pm, Dec 24-26: Closed • **Admission:** 15.95 £**THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW**

- Churchill directed World War II from this basement office
- When the war ended the rooms were closed down and turned into a museum
- All items on display are the original ones
- The museum became fully open to the public in 1984
- The unit of the telephone scrambler system that allowed Churchill to securely speak with Roosevelt was concealed as the prime minister's lavatory

**THINGS TO DO THERE**

- Pick up a free audio guide
- Discover the fascinating and informative museum

**TIPS & INSIGHTS**[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

## Attraction Details

15:45-17:45



## Natural History Museum (Cromwell Road, London, SW7 5BD)

**Opening hours:** Daily: 10am - 5:50pm, Dec 24-26: Closed • **Admission:** Free

### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Natural History Museum's collection has more than 70 million life and earth science specimens
- The museum was founded in 1881
- Some of the specimens were collected by Darwin
- The specimens include plants, animals, minerals, gems, meteorites, interactive rainforest and more
- The museum is renowned for its collection of dinosaur skeletons and the imposing building

### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Walk around and enjoy the marvelous collection
- Try the many innovative, hands-on exhibits

### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- The building of the museum itself is worth a visit
- Avoid school holidays but be prepared for groups of teenagers
- It is a must-see for families with kids

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

18:05-19:05



## 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

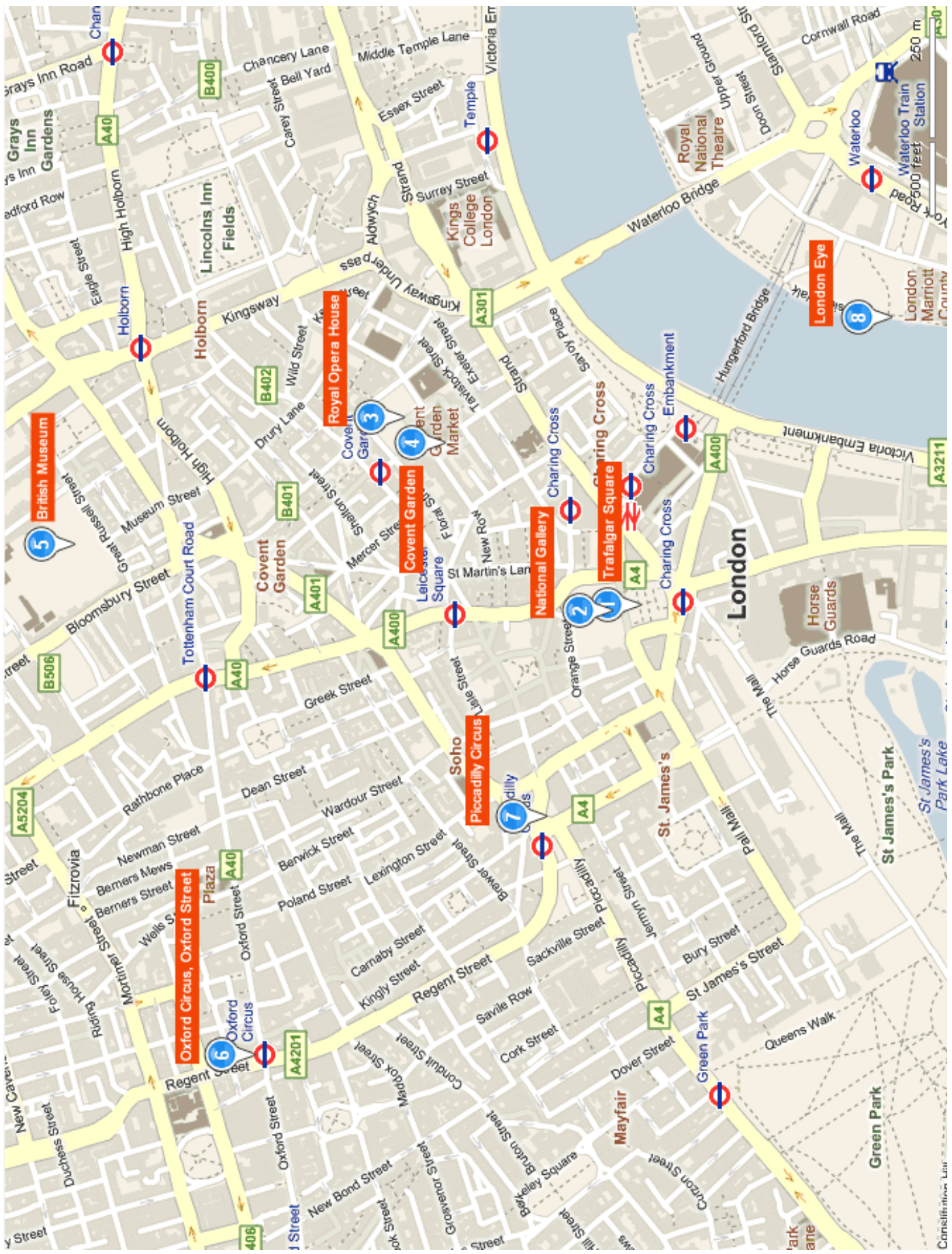
[MORE Info and Photos >](#)



## Overview of Day 2

	<p><b>LEAVE HOTEL</b> <a href="#">Tested and recommended hotels in London &gt;</a></p> <p>Take Northern or Metropolitan Line to Charing Cross station)</p>	
09:00-09:15	<p><b>Trafalgar Square</b> —————</p> <p>National Gallery is on Trafalgar Square</p>	<p>One of the most famous squares in the world <a href="#">Page 11</a></p>
09:15-10:55	<p><b>National Gallery</b> —————</p> <p>Take Northern Line to Leicester Square station (Direction: High Barnet) Change to Piccadilly Line to Covent Garden station (Direction: Cockfosters) - 20' in all</p>	<p>Fascinating museum to all <a href="#">Page 11</a></p>
11:15-11:35	<p><b>Royal Opera House</b> —————</p> <p>Covent Garden Market is next to the Royal Opera House</p>	<p>London's premier music venue <a href="#">Page 11</a></p>
11:35-12:15	<p><b>Covent Garden Market</b> —————</p> <p><b>Lunch time</b> Take Piccadilly Line from Covent Garden station to Russell Square station (Direction: Cockfosters) Take a walk to British Museum</p>	<p>Lovely square <a href="#">Page 12</a></p>
13:30-15:10	<p><b>The British Museum</b> —————</p> <p>Take Bus line 98 from Tottenham Court Road Station stop to Oxford Circus Station/Harewood Place stop (Direction: Pound Lane/Willesden Bus Garage) - 10'</p>	<p>Oldest museum in the world <a href="#">Page 12</a></p>
15:20-17:10	<p><b>Oxford Street and Oxford Circus</b> —————</p> <p>Take Bus line 6 from Oxford Circus stop to Piccadilly Circus (Direction: Aldwych) - 10'</p>	<p>One of the busiest shopping streets in Europe <a href="#">Page 12</a></p>
17:20-17:40	<p><b>Piccadilly Circus</b> —————</p> <p>Take Bakerloo Line from Piccadilly Circus station to Embankment station (Direction: Elephant&amp;Castle) Take a walk through Hungerford Foot Bridge to London Eye - 25' in all</p>	<p>One of London's best known landmarks <a href="#">Page 13</a></p>
18:05-19:05	<p><b>London Eye</b> —————</p>	<p>Quickly became a London icon <a href="#">Page 13</a></p>
	<b>END OF DAY 2</b>	

Overview of Day 2



## 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 >](#)

09:15-10:55



### National Gallery (Trafalgar Square, London, WC2N 5DN)

**Opening hours:** Daily: 10am - 6pm, Fridays: 10am - 7pm, Jan 1 and Dec 24-26: Closed • **Admission:** Free

#### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- National Gallery exhibits around 2300 paintings
- It was founded in 1832 with only 38 paintings
- It is located on Trafalgar Square
- The gallery covers periods from the early Renaissance to the impressionists (1250-1900)
- It owns artworks from painters such as Monet, Van Gogh, Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Rubens, Picasso
- The museum houses one of the greatest collections of European paintings in the world

#### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Collect a map from the audio guide desk

- Walk around and enjoy the wonderful art work of the well known artists
- At the end of your visit buy a print of your favorite masterpiece in the museum shop

#### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- 60-minute taster tours of the collection every day at 11.30am and 2.30pm, and Fridays at 7pm for free (Sainsbury Wing Information Desk)
- Audioguide is available for a fee of £3.50
- The lower floor coffee shop has great interactive computers that will help you plan your day, help you find specific paintings or artists. You can also print out your plan

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

11:15-11:35



### Royal Opera House (Bow St, Covent Garden, London, WC2E 9DD)

#### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Royal Opera House is a Neo-Classical theatre built in 1858
- It is London's premier music venue
- The opera house is home to Royal Opera and world famous Royal Ballet Companies
- This impressive building is the heart of the Covent Garden neighborhood
- For the first hundred years of its history it functioned as a playhouse
- The first ballet was performed in 1734, a year later Handel's first opera season began
- Many of Handel's operas were written for Royal Opera House

#### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Have a look at the impressive building from the outside

#### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- [Pre-booked guided tours](#) are available daily (£7- £10)
- Do not miss an unforgettable evening in this world renowned opera house if you are an opera lover

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

## Attraction Details

11:35-12:15

WC2E 8RF)



## Covent Garden Market (41 The Market, Covent Garden Piazza, City of London

### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- The first planned square of London that was laid out in the 17th century by Inigo Jones
- For 300 years, was a fruit, vegetable and flower market
- The market was immortalized by Lerner and Loewe's hit musical My Fair Lady
- Now it is an arcade filled with upscale shops and cafés

### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Walk around and enjoy this lovely square

- Enjoy the performance of the street entertainers

### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- There are lots of shops and cafes with street performers and plenty of places to sit and just people watch
- If you are lucky you can enjoy opera singers singing inside the arcades

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

13:30-15:10



## The British Museum (Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3DG)

**Opening hours:** Daily: 10am - 5:30pm, Fridays: 9am - 8:30pm, Jan 1, Dec 24-26: Closed • **Admission:** Free

### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- British Museum is the oldest museum in the world that was opened in 1753
- The museum was started with Sir Hans Sloane's donations
- Its collection includes more than 6 million items spanning 1.8 million years
- The displays include the Rosetta Stone, the colossal bust of Ramesses II and Parthenon Sculptures
- Its present Classical building was completed in 1850
- The Great Court, the central courtyard, was covered with a glass dome and opened in 2000

### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Follow this [1 hour highlights tour](#) recommended by the British Museum (do not forget to download it and print it out)

### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- [Free eyeOpener gallery tours:](#) 30-40 minutes tours introducing different areas of the Museum's collection, led by volunteer guides
- Multimedia guide is available for £5 (separate one for kids)
- Nice cafés are located in the Great Court

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

15:20-17:10



## 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 >](#)

17:20-17:40

## 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 >](#)

18:05-19:05

## 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

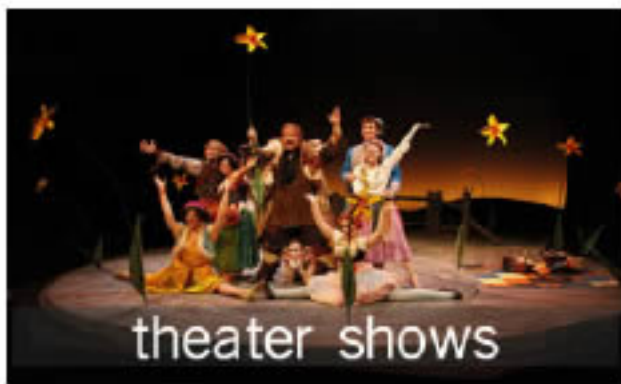
- Take photos of yourself with London Eye in the background

### 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 >](#)





# Spice up your holiday

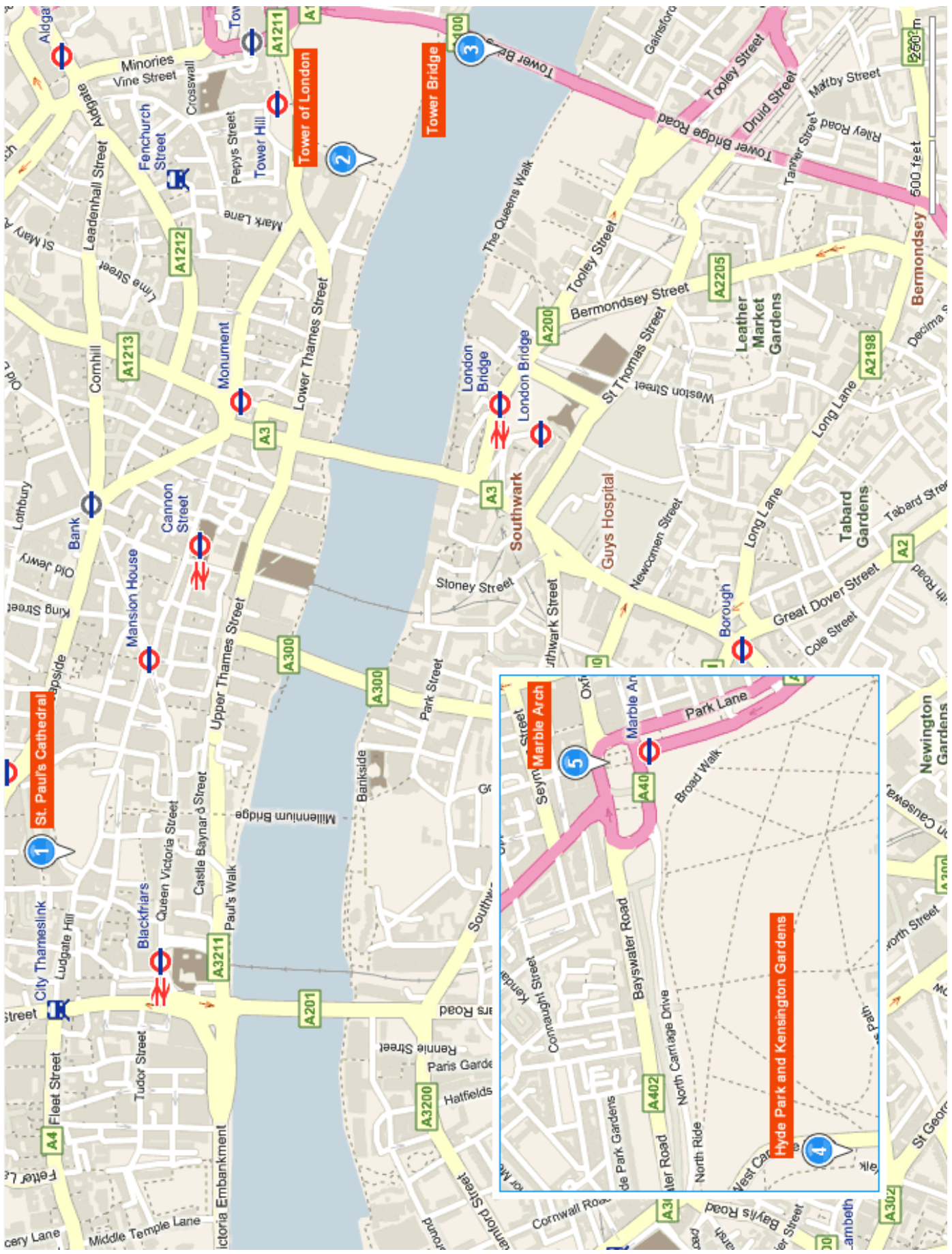
Turn your regular holiday into something extraordinary

See all fun activities in London. [Click here >](#)

## Overview of Day 3

●	<p><b>LEAVE HOTEL</b> <a href="#">Tested and recommended hotels in London &gt;</a></p> <p>Take Central Line to St.Paul's station</p>		
09:00-10:00	<p><b>St Paul's Cathedral</b> ————— </p> <p>Take Bus line 15 from St. Paul's Cathedral stop to Tower of London stop (Direction: Blackwall Station) - 30'</p>	World-famous dome	Page 17
10:30-13:30	<p><b>Tower of London</b> ————— </p> <p>Tower Bridge is next to the Tower of London</p>	World Heritage Site	Page 17
13:30-13:45	<p><b>Tower Bridge</b> ————— </p> <p><b>Lunch time</b> Take Circle or District Line from Tower Hill station to South Kensington station (Direction: Ealing Broadway) Change to Piccadilly Line to Hyde Park Corner station (Direction: Cockfosters)</p>	One of the most recognized bridges in the world	Page 18
15:30-17:30	<p><b>Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens</b> ————— </p> <p>Take a walk to Marble Arch - 10'</p>	Lush green oasis in the center of the city with relaxing atmosphere	Page 18
17:40-17:50	<p><b>Marble Arch</b> ————— </p>	Interesting piece of architecture	Page 18
●	<p><b>END OF DAY 3</b></p>		

Overview of Day 3





## Attraction Details

09:00-10:00

### St Paul's Cathedral (St Paul's Churchyard, London, EC4M 8AD)

**Opening hours:** Monday - Saturday: 8:30am - 4pm • **Admission:** 14.50 £



#### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- The current Cathedral was designed by the famous court architect Sir Christopher Wren and built between 1675 and 1710 after its predecessor was destroyed in the Great Fire of London
- It is a protestant cathedral that has many similarities with St Peter's in Rome, notably in its enormous ornate dome
- It has the largest swinging bell in Europe, Great Paul, which strikes every day at 1pm
- The hour bell, Great Tom, strikes the hour and marks the death of royalty and senior churchmen
- Important services have included the 80th and 100th birthdays of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother; the wedding of Charles, Prince of Wales, to Lady Diana Spencer
- This church is the symbol of the hope, resilience and strength of the city and the nation it serves

#### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Take the iPod Touch audioguide included in the entrance fee
- Enjoy the awe-inspiring interior of the cathedral
- Make your way underground and explore the crypt
- Climb up to the Whispering Gallery and try out the acoustic quirks of the
- Continue to the Golden Gallery and enjoy breathtaking views of London

#### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- Please note that it is not allowed to take photos inside
- On Sundays the cathedral is open only for worship (free entrance)

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

10:30-13:30

### Tower of London (Tower of London, London, EC3N 4AB )

**Opening hours:** Tuesday - Saturday: 9am - 5.30pm, Sunday - Monday: 10am - 5.30pm • **Admission:** 19.8 £



#### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Tower of London is a historic castle in Central London
- It was founded by William the Conqueror in 1066 as part of the Norman Conquest of England
- The castle got its name after its first tower; the White Towers built in 1078 a resented symbol of Norman oppression
- It served as a royal residence, prison and fortress until the Tudors
- The general layout of the fortress was established by the late 13th century
- The Tower played a prominent role in England's history with power struggles, executions, and cruelty
- Controlling the Tower of London was important for ruling the country
- The Crown Jewels are kept in the Tower
- It is believed that if the ravens leave the castle; the kingdom will fall

#### THINGS TO DO THERE

- As soon as you enter, check the starting time of the next Yeoman Warder guided tour (60 min) that tells exciting tales from the Tower's past (every 30 min, included in the entrance fee)
- If you have to wait for the tour see the Crown Jewels, one of the unmissable highlights of a visit to the Tower of London
- Explore the Tower by visiting the other highlights: the traitor's gate, the Bloody tower, the Wakefield tower and the White Tower (housing the Royal Armouries)

#### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- Don't be put off if the queue is miles long. It moves rather quickly
- Audioguide is not included in the entrance fee (extra £4.00)

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

## Attraction Details

13:30-13:45

**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**

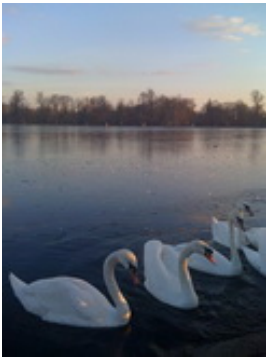
- Take photos of this symbol of London
- Enjoy the bridge being raised (if you are lucky)

**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 >](#)

15:30-17:30

**Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens** (Westminster, London W1)**THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW**

- Hyde Park is a large and overly popular royal park in Central London with cafés, fountains, flower gardens and more
- It is best known for Speakers' Corner, a place where people can speak freely about anything
- Its lake is called the Serpentine that is home to waterfowl and oarsmen. Alas the city's main boating spot
- Other attractions of Hyde Park include: Rotten Row, Crystal Palace, Prince Diana Memorial, Holocaust Memorial, and a botanical curiosity, the *Fagus sylvatica pendula*
- A continuation of Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens was opened to the public in 1841
- Kensington Palace is famous as the former home of Princess Diana
- Main attractions of Kensington Gardens: Round Pond, Peter Pan statue, Albert Memorial
- In both parks a wide variety of activities is available to visitors such as swimming, boating, cycling and skating. There are pitches for team games, tennis courts, tracks for horse riding and a spectacular children's playground

**THINGS TO DO THERE**

- Take a walk in Hyde Park along lake Serpentine
- Find a bench and relax or have a coffee in one of the park's cafés
- Cross the bridge leading to Kensington Gardens
- Head west towards Round Pond and Kensington Palace

**TIPS & INSIGHTS**

- Great place to see Londoners live their normal life
- Boats can be rented from the Boat House next to the Serpentine
- Many concerts are held in the park

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

17:40-17:50

**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

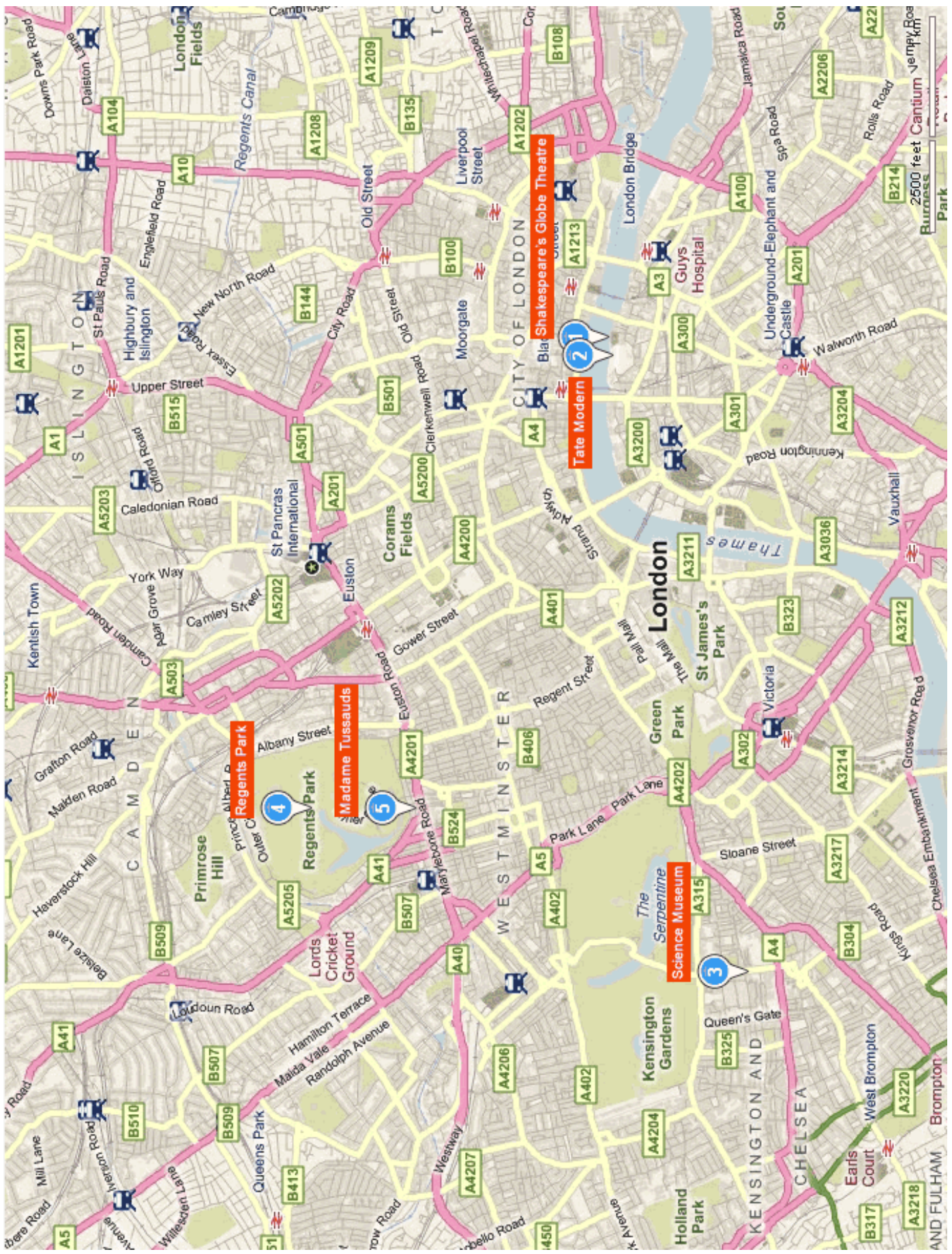
**TIPS & INSIGHTS**

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

## Overview of Day 4

●	<p><b>LEAVE HOTEL</b> <a href="#">Tested and recommended hotels in London &gt;</a></p> <p>Take the subway to Monument station Change to Bus line 344 to Southwark Bridge/Bankside Pier stop (Direction: Clapham Junction Station/Falcon Road)</p>		
09:00-10:00	<p><b>Shakespeare's Globe Theatre</b> ■</p> <p>Take a walk to Tate Modern - 10'</p>	Unique experience	Page 21
10:10-11:00	<p><b>Tate Modern</b> ■</p> <p>Take a walk to Southwark Bridge/Bankside Pier bus stop and take Bus line 344 to Monument station (Direction: Appold Street) Change to Circle or District Line to South Kensington station Take a walk to the Science Museum - 60' in all</p>	Remarkable collection of modern art	Page 21
12:00-13:45	<p><b>Science Museum</b> ■</p> <p><i>Lunch time</i> Take a walk to South Kensington station and take Piccadilly Line to Piccadilly Circus station (Direction: Cockfosters) Change to Bakerloo Line to Regent's Park station (Direction: Harrow&amp;Wealdstone)</p>	Engaging and fun experience both for kids and for adults	Page 21
15:30-16:45	<p><b>Regent's Park</b> ■</p> <p>Take a walk to Madame Tussauds - 15'</p>	Lovely gardens with pretty lakes and beautiful flower gardens	Page 22
17:00-19:00	<p><b>Madame Tussaud's</b> ■</p>	One of London's most popular attractions	Page 22
●	<p><b>END OF DAY 4</b></p>		

Overview of Day 4



## Attraction Details

09:00-10:00

### Shakespeare's Globe Theatre (21 New Globe Walk, Bankside, London, SE1 9DT)

**Opening hours:** Throughout the year: [Check website](#) • **Admission:** 11.5 £

#### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Today's Globe Theater is a reconstruction of Shakespeare's former Globe Theater
- It opened in 1997
- It was rebuilt in unbelievable details with tools authentic to the 17th century
- The theater stands a few hundred meters from its original location
- The original Globe was built in 1599 and was operational until 1642
- In 1613 it burnt down and was rebuilt a year later
- This is where Shakespeare's plays were performed in daylight to both nobles and poor

#### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Join one of the fascinating guided tours (each 15-30 min) included in your ticket
- Visit the exhibition under the theater that explains Shakespeare's life, the London he lived in and his theater

#### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- If you are going to see only one Shakespeare play in your life, then this is the place you should see it

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)



10:10-11:00

### Tate Modern (Tate Modern, Bankside, London SE1 9TG)

**Opening hours:** Sunday - Thursday: 10am - 6pm, Friday - Saturday: 10am - 10pm • **Admission:** Free

#### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Tate Modern is a gallery dedicated to international modern art
- New gallery is housed in the old Bankside power station
- Its collection includes works from Dali, Picasso, Matisse, Rothko, Warhol and many contemporary artists
- The museum has 88 galleries

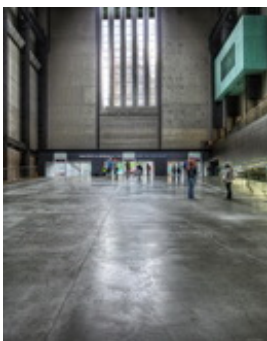
#### THINGS TO DO THERE

- The building itself is worth a look
- Enter the building and wander around in the galleries

#### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- Join the free guided tour
- Displays are changed frequently. It is worth revisiting
- Great view from the restaurant on the 7th floor
- The Espresso Bar on the 4th floor has a cosy riverside balconies
- Audioguide is for extra charge

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)



12:00-13:45

### Science Museum (Exhibition Road, South Kensington, London, SW7 2DD)

**Opening hours:** Daily: 10am - 6pm, Dec 24-26: Closed • **Admission:** Free

#### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Science Museum tells the story of scientific developments and explains the scientific phenomena that rule every day life
- It is a highly engaging museum both for kids and for adults
- Many hands-on exhibits illustrate the rules of science
- Highlights include Launchpad (hands-on chemistry and physics fun), Foucault's Pendulum, the Apollo 10 command module, and an IMAX theater (which charges a fee)

#### THINGS TO DO THERE

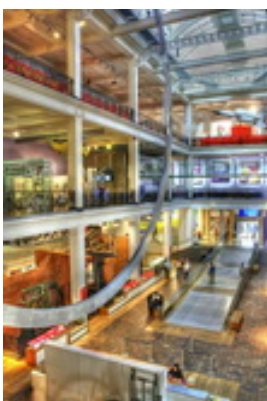
- Learn about science on several floors

- Have fun trying the different subjects: flight, electrics, information technology, water, space

#### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- Entry is free, but charges apply for the IMAX 3D Cinema, simulators and some special exhibitions. Do not forget to buy your tickets as soon as you arrive
- Free wifi if you ask for the password at reception

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)



## Attraction Details

15:30-16:45

**Regent's Park** (Regent's Park, London, NW1 4NR)Opening hours: All year round: [Check website](#)**THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW**

- The Regent's Park is a large and beautiful royal park in Central London
- It used to be one of Henry VIII's favorite hunting grounds
- The park is home to the London Zoo
- A wide variety of activities is available to visitors such as boat rowing, open air theater, bars and cafés, sports facilities

**THINGS TO DO THERE**

- Take a walk and admire the well-tended gardens



- Walk along Regents canal
- Find an empty bench and relax
- Visit Queen Mary's Rose Garden

**TIPS & INSIGHTS**[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

17:00-19:00

**Madame Tussaud's** (Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5LR)Opening hours: Throughout the year: [Check website](#) • Admission: 28.8 £**THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW**

- Madame Tussaud's is a museum of waxwork models of the famous (the Queen, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Pele, etc)
- It was founded by wax sculptor Marie Tussaud in 1884
- It organizes itself into various galleries such as World Leaders (Clinton, Tony Blair), the Royal Family (the Queen), History of London or the Music Zone (Beatles, Bob Marley)
- Chamber of Horror has the very guillotine that beheaded Queen Marie Antoinette in the French Revolution

**THINGS TO DO THERE**

- Have fun walking around and meeting celebrities, sporting legends, music megastars, world leaders and take a photo with all your favorites



- Enjoy the fantastic Spirit of London show and do not miss the Marvel Super Heroes 4D show

**TIPS & INSIGHTS**

- Expect a very long queue especially in high tourist seasons
- You can save time and money by [booking your ticket online](#). It comes with priority access
- You can also

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)



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## Overview of Day 5

### LEAVE HOTEL [Tested and recommended hotels in London >](#)

Take a boat from Embankment to Greenwich  
Take a walk through the park to the Royal Observatory - 90' in all

10:00-11:30

#### Royal Observatory

As you step out from the Royal Observatory you are in Greenwich Park

Stand on the "official" starting point of world time

Page 26

11:30-12:30

#### Greenwich Park

##### Lunch time

Take a walk to National Maritime Museum

Great views over London and the National Maritime Museum

Page 26

13:45-15:15

#### National Maritime Museum

Take a walk under the river through the foot tunnel  
Take Docklands Light Railway from Island Gardens station to Canary Wharf station  
Change to Jubilee Line to Waterloo station (Direction: Stanmore)  
Change to Bakerloo Line to Lambeth North station (Direction: Elephant & Castle)  
Take a walk to Imperial War Museum - 75' in all

Part of World Heritage Site of Greenwich

Page 26

16:30-18:00

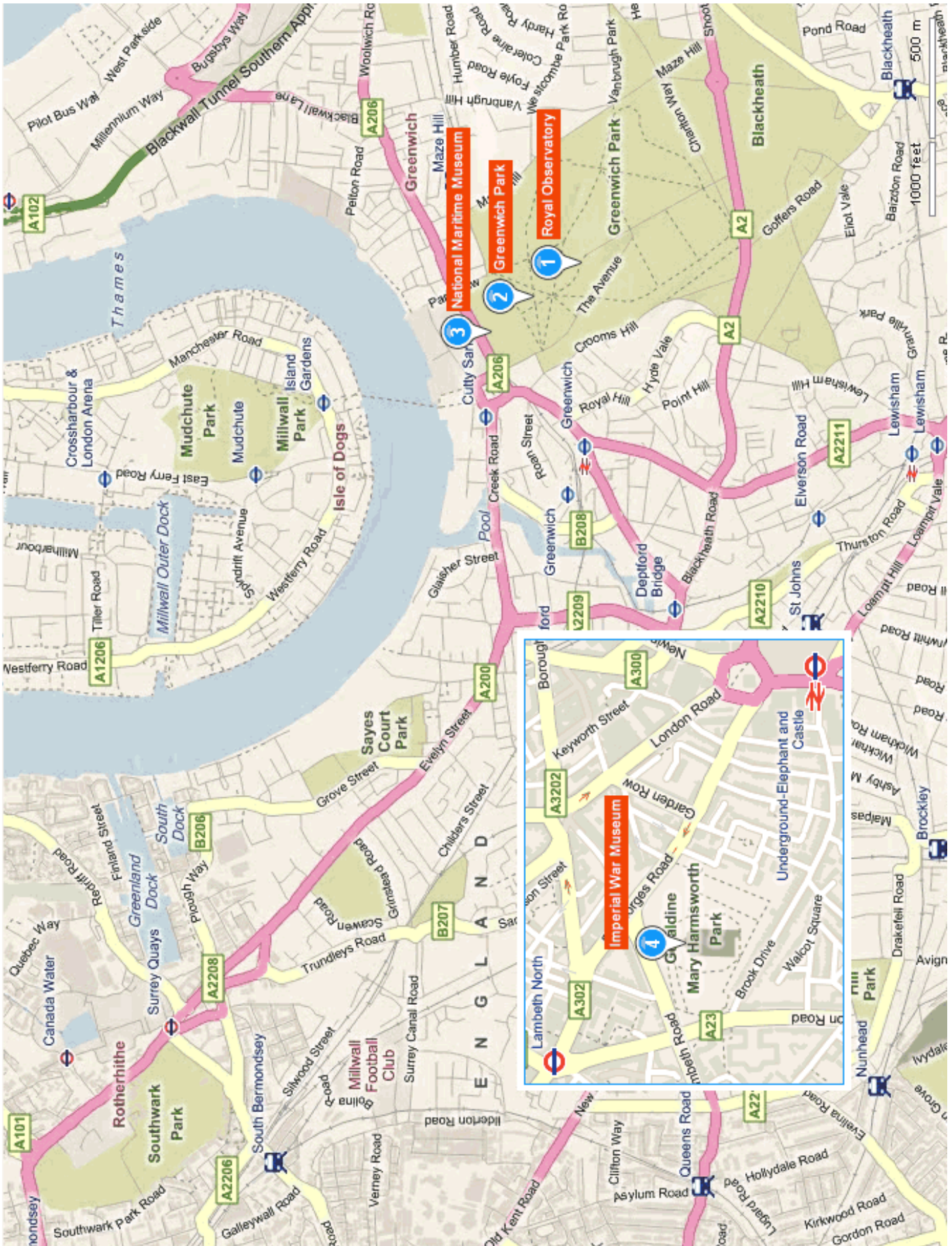
#### Imperial War Museum

### END OF DAY 5

One of London's most interesting and engaging museums

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## Attraction Details

10:00-11:30

### Royal Observatory (Blackheath Avenue, Greenwich, SE10 8XJ)

Opening hours: Daily: 10am - 5pm, Dec 24-26: Closed • Admission: Free

#### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Royal Observatory is part of the World Heritage Site of Greenwich
- It was founded by Charles II in 1675
- The Observatory was built to improve navigation at sea by finding the method of determining the exact position to the east or west by astronomical means
- The Prime Meridian, Longitude 0° runs through it
- Every place on Earth is measured in terms of its distance east or west from this point
- It is the official starting point for each new day and year
- UK's largest refracting telescope is housed in the building

#### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Have your photo taken standing on the meridian line

- Enjoy the fabulous view over London
- Visit the observatory housing the Astronomy center, the Planetarium, the Time galleries and the telescope Dome
- Do not miss the planetarium shows (charges apply: £6.50)

#### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- The exhibitions are interactive and very informative
- [Visit the official site](#) for an informative map
- Meridian line: for £1 you can print a certificate that you were there

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)



11:30-12:30

### Greenwich Park (Greenwich, London. SE10 8QY)

Opening hours: All year round: [Check website](#)

#### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Greenwich Park, in south east London, is the oldest Royal Park
- It is part of the Greenwich World Heritage Sites
- The park gives home to the Royal Observatory where the 0° longitude meridian passes through
- The Queen's House, a former royal residence, and the National Maritime Museum are also situated in the park

#### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Take a walk in the admirable park
- Take a rest on a bench and relax

#### TIPS & INSIGHTS

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)



13:45-15:15

### National Maritime Museum (Romney Road, Greenwich, London SE10 9NF)

Opening hours: Daily: 10am - 5pm, Dec 24-26: Closed • Admission: Free

#### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Part of World Heritage Site of Greenwich
- National Maritime Museum is dedicated to maritime history, technology and the sea
- The World's largest maritime museum with an extensive collection of ships and boats
- Many simulators make the visit an unforgettable experience
- Admiral Nelson's fatally pierced tunic is on display
- Excellent place to visit with kids

- Continue to the first floor: art work, various objects such as swords, medals, navigation instruments, a library/study room and the stained glass collection from the Baltic Exchange
- Finish your visit at the third floor: excellent ship simulator and collection of ship models

#### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- A must-see for families with kids

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)



#### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Explorer the ground floor: maritime London, shipping and shipbuilding, the growth of leisure travel and the ecology of the sea

16:30-18:00

## Imperial War Museum (Lambeth Rd, London, SE1 6HZ)

**Opening hours:** Daily: 10am - 6pm, Dec 24-26: Closed • **Admission:** Free

### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Imperial War Museum is dedicated to documenting the technology and social effect of war
- It opened in 1917 to collect materials relating to World War I
- Now exhibits include memorabilia from all modern British conflicts
- Next to all types of war machines are on display
- Interactive sections, (WW I trench warfare and WWII bomb shelters) bring the reality of war to life
- Hitler's signed order authorizing the march on Poland is on display
- A large Holocaust Exhibiton is housed in the building

### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Take some photos of the impressive building from the outside
- Explore some of the permanent galleries: World War I and II, Conflicts since 1945, The Holocaust, Secret War
- Do not miss the great special exhibitions

### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- Audio tour is available, but not necessary
- Children love to see the tanks, Spitfires and huge guns
- Children under 11 are not permitted in the Holocaust Exhibition

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)





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