



Welcome to London!



Online Vacation Center welcomes you to London and wishes you a pleasant stay! Modern and sophisticated, yet traditional and historical, London is one of the most diverse and varied cities in the world. Visitors come to visit grand palaces, admire art at the many galleries, enjoy a West End show, shop at trendy stores, and sample tea and scones. Whatever you have come for, we hope you enjoy your stay and all that this fascinating city has to offer!

In this guide you will find information about the city and area surrounding your hotel; however, we encourage you to speak with the concierge for more detailed information. We also recommend keeping a business card from the hotel in your wallet or taking a picture of it, so that you always have the hotel address with you.

Online Vacation Center is interested in your feedback, so we encourage you to fill out our post-vacation survey when you get home. Every comment is read by management, and some great additions to our programs have been suggested by clients like you.

Have a wonderful stay in London!



THINGS TO DO AND SEE

Royal Parks

London is known for its 8 Royal Parks, which are all centrally located throughout the city and offer a delightful retreat from the hustle and bustle of the city. Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens are side-by-side. Kensington Palace is on the west end of Kensington Gardens. Regent's Park contains the largest collection of roses in London.

The British Museum

Dedicated to history, art and culture, this museum has one of the largest and most comprehensive permanent collections in the world. *(7 min. walk from Holborn Station)*

Big Ben and the House of Parliament

Two of the city's most iconic landmarks. *(3 min. walk from Westminster Station)*

St. Paul's Cathedral

With its unmistakable dome, St. Paul's cathedral has remained a symbol of National Identity since its completion in 1708. *(6 min. walk from Mansion House Station)*

Buckingham Palace

No trip to London is complete without a visit to Buckingham Palace, the official residence of the British Monarchy. *(10 min. walk from Green Park Station)*

Covent Garden

A popular shopping destination, nestled among elegant buildings, theatres and the Royal Opera House. This is a fun destination at the heart of London's cultural center. *(2 min. walk from Covent Garden Station)*

NOTES: _____



Go on a tour!

[Click Here](#) for tours (and shore excursions). Hint: use code OVCSE10 for a 10% discount from Online Vacation Center (must click the link from this PDF to redeem). City tours are available in the embark and debark cities of most cruises. Just enter your ship and sail date (*sail date*, NOT hotel start date) and look for these buttons on the itinerary:



[Click Here](#) for a second option for booking city tours.

There's more to do!

For more Information, visit www.visitlondon.com and www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g186338-Activities-London_England.html

For theater tickets, visit <http://www.lastminute.com/theatre> and <http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk/west-end-theatre/>

CUISINE & RESTAURANTS

There's a plethora of local cuisine to try: fish and chips, meat pies, traditional afternoon tea with scones, Yorkshire pudding, Indian curry, sticky toffee pudding and more. In addition to using the resources below to guide your stomach through London, we encourage you to speak with the hotel concierge for the best local options.

Food recommendations can be found here:

<https://www.eater.com/2017/2/9/14493112/best-classic-british-food-restaurants-london-fish-and-chips-sticky-toffee-pudding>

Restaurant recommendations can be found here:

<https://www.theinfatuation.com/london/guides/first-timers-best-london-restaurants> and here: https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurants-g186338-London_England.html



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Currency – British Pound Sterling (£)


Please visit <https://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/> for the current exchange rate. Right before your trip, fill in the below amounts to keep with you as a guide.

£1 = \$ ___ £10 = \$ ___ £25 = \$ ___ £40 = \$ ___ £75 = \$ ___
 £5 = \$ ___ £15 = \$ ___ £35 = \$ ___ £50 = \$ ___ £100 = \$ ___

Tipping

Tipping is appreciated in London but is not always expected. Tipping taxi drivers and at restaurants is appropriate (10-15% is customary). However tipping in bars, pubs and hotels is not generally expected. Tour guides are an exception to this; most guides will appreciate or expect a tip.

Electric Current

 Plugs in England look like this, so you will need an adapter. Voltage is 220-240, whereas in the U.S. and Canada it is 110, so you will also need a converter. However, most chargers these days have a box which will act as a converter. If your charger says "Input: 100-240V, 50/60 Hz" then you do not need to use a converter.



Weather

°C to °F Quick Reference Guide:

-5° C = 23° F	5° C = 41° F	15° C = 59° F	25° C = 77° F	35° C = 95° F
0° C = 32° F	10° C = 50° F	20° C = 68° F	30° C = 86° F	40° C = 104° F

Average high and low temperatures for London:

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
High °F	48	48	54	59	64	70	73	73	68	61	54	48
Low °F	41	41	43	45	50	55	59	59	55	50	45	41



TRANSPORTATION

London has a very comprehensive public transportation system. The three best methods of getting around the city are the Underground (Tube), bus and taxi. You can buy a visitor Oyster Card at most tube stations, as well as at newsagents and small shops across London. The Oyster Card allows you to move throughout the city by tube and bus with ease, as well as saving you money compared to buying individual paper tickets.

Tube Map: http://files.londonandpartners.com/assets/pdf/tube_map_june_2016.pdf

NOTES: _____

FUN FACTS

Big Ben refers to the bell, not the clock tower. The Tower was renamed The Elizabeth Tower to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in 2012.

Windsor Castle is the oldest royal residence in the world that is still being used by the Royal Family.

The Palace of Westminster was deliberately constructed next to the River Thames so it could not be surrounded by a mob.

More languages are spoken in London than any other city in the world (270).



LOCAL LANGUAGE

The official and most widely spoken language in England is English, so you should have no trouble being understood. However, some terms used can vary between England and the U.S./Canada. Below, find some helpful hints about local terms and slang.

Vacation	Holiday	Pharmacy	Chemist
Elevator	Lift	Pen	Biro
Lobby	Reception	Trash / Trashcan	Rubbish / Bin
Cookie	Biscuit	Ground/1 st Floor	Ground Floor
Cilantro	Coriander	2 nd Floor	1 st Floor
French Fries	Chips	Bathroom	WC (water closet) or Loo
Potato Chips	Crisps	Toilet Paper	Bog Roll
Band-aid	Plaster	Crosswalk	Zebra Crossing

EMERGENCY INFORMATION AND SAFETY

The emergency number for the police, rescue, and fire departments is **999**

The U.S. State Department advises all travelers, regardless of destination, to avoid demonstrations and to secure your belongings to avoid pickpockets while in crowded tourist centers. Up-to-date travel information specific to England can be found at <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/united-kingdom.html>

U.S. Embassy

Address: 33 Nine Elms Lane
London SW11 7US

Telephone: (+44) (20) 7499-9000

After-hours: (+44) (20) 7499-5012

High Commission of Canada

Address: Canada House

Trafalgar Square

London, SW1Y 5BJ

Telephone: (+44) (20) 7004 6000

