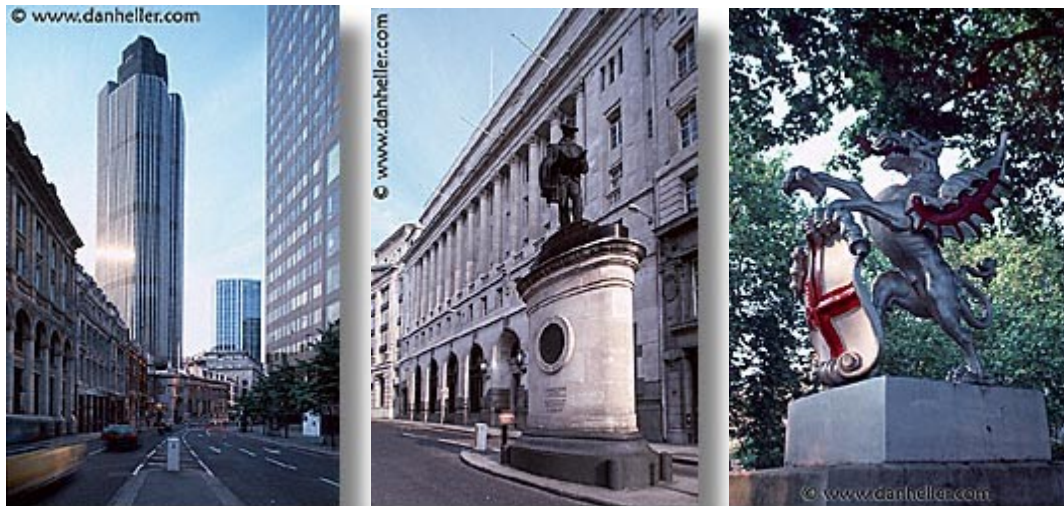


# LONDON



- LONDON

London is a capital city of Great Britain. It lies near 340 km long river Thames. London was once one of the most important seaport towns, because of this particular position. It has about 7 million people. Most of them are English but there are also some Scottish, Irish, Indian, black, Chinese,... people.



Every year, more than 9 million people come from countries all over the world to visit London. They go to the theatres and museums; they look at interesting old buildings, many of them are hundreds of years old; they sit or walk in the beautiful parks, or have a drink in a pub. They go to Oxford Street to look at the shops, or to Harrods. They go to the Tower of London, they go to see St Paul's Cathedral and all of the famous sights.

- TRANSPORTATION

London is a big and beautiful city with lots to see and do. A quick and easy way to get to different places in the city is to use an Underground train. The trains run all day and most of the night. Buy your ticket before you get on the train. It's better not to make your journey between eight o'clock and ten o'clock in the morning, or four o'clock and six o'clock in the evening. These are called the 'rush' hours. Thousands of people are going to work or coming home again then, and it is difficult to move or to find a place to sit on the train.

You can see much more of London from one of its famous red buses, called 'double decker' bus. Some special visitor's buses take you to many of the interesting places in the city on one journey. It takes about one and a half hours, but you can break your journey and get off (and on again) at the different places you want to visit.



London taxis are called 'black cabs'. Most of them are black, but some are not. You can stop one if it has a 'For Hire' sign on it. The drivers are usually friendly and very helpful.



- **SOME PLACES TO GO**

*BUCHINGAN PALACE* is the official home of the British Royal family and the official residence of the Queen. At half past eleven the soldiers at Buckingham Palace 'change the guard'. It takes about thirty minutes, and hundreds of visitors come to watch.



*THE TOWER OF LONDON* is one hundred years old defensive fort. But now is a museum and you can see there the Crown Jewels and visit the Bloody Tower.



*THE TOWER BRIDGE* is one of the most famous bridges in the city, because of its two towers.





*WESTMINISTER ABBEY* is the most important church in Great Britain, because 1064 English kings were crowned there.



*HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT* is the home of the British government for about 700 years.



*BIG BEN* is the clock high up on the houses of parliament. But this is not the name of a clock it's actually the name of a ben.



*EYE OF LONDON* is the world's highest observation wheel and its 30-minute slow-moving flight gives unrivalled views over London.



*MADAME TUSSAUD* is a famous wax museum and it holds a large collection of more than 400 figures, including pop, film, and sports stars, politicians, royalty and murderers.



- **SHOPS AND STREETS**

London is very big city with lots of famous streets (Oxford Street), squares (Trafalgar square) and shops (Harrods).

*HARRODS* is the most famous shop in London, in Knightsbridge Street. It opened in 1849. You can find there everything you want.



*OXFORD STREET* has many big shops - Selfridges, Marks and Spencer, John Lewis, Dagenham's. There are always lots of people looking at the shops here, but at Christmas thousands more people come to see the wonderful Christmas lights.



*COVENT GARDEN* was once a big food market, but now it has lots of small shops and cafes.





*TRAFALGAR SQUARE* is in the centre of London with 56 m high Nelson's statue.



*PICCADILLY CIRCUS* is one of the most crowded places in London.



*CHARING CROSS ROAD* is famous for its bookshops. There are lots of them, and they sell old and new books.





- PARKS AND RIVER THAMES

London has a lot of different parks, different size. All of them are very beautiful and full of foreign visitors and different animals.

*HYDE PARK* is one of the London's beautiful parks. In the middle of the park is a lake called Serpentine, and you can take a boat on the water. It is a good place to get away from the crowds and the noise of the city.



*RIVER THAMES* is 340 m long River and it goes trough the city of London. In the past there was important harbour on the river.



**London** is very beautiful city with lots of sights and interesting places to go and see. So if you will get a chance to visit London by your self, you should take it.

