



# LONDON

## Basic information

London is the ..... of the UK and **cosmopolitan city**; there are people of many nationalities.

Its population is about .....

London is situated on the river ..... in the southeast of England.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century it was the largest and most influential city in the world although it belongs no longer to the world's most populous cities, it is still one of the **world's major financial and cultural capitals**.

London's climate is mild and damp.

## History

The city was probably built 2,000 years ago. In 1599, Shakespeare opened a theatre called the ..... . In 1666, there was the Great Fire which destroyed almost all the city because it was made of wood. After the fire the city was rebuilt and became a modern town.

## Means of transport

London transport is one of quite high quality. People can have a ride one of the world-famous **red** ..... . They were too old and therefore they can be found only in the historical parts. The fastest means of transport is underground or ....., as it is known in London. It's the oldest underground in the world. Traditional **black taxis** or ..... are another symbol of London. Also buses and coaches are other means of transport - London has an extensive bus network. Buses are the only possible way to travel after midnight. You can also travel by river buses. There are also 3 airports in London, the most important is ..... and Gatwick.

## London and its metropolitan area

London's metropolitan area is divided into 33 political units. In the centre, there is the Central London. Most of Central London is located north of the Thames, including the City of London (the traditional heart of the city), the City of Westminster (the seat of national government) and some parts in the West End.

## City of London

The City of London is the oldest and historical part known as the City.

..... was a royal palace, a prison and a fortress. Today it is a museum of historical weapons and there are coronation jewels. There are ravens that mustn't leave it otherwise the Kingdom would fall apart, as the legend says. 37 Beefeaters guard the Tower.

The ..... is a symbol of London and opens in the middle and goes up when huge ships want to pass through.

..... is one of the largest in the world and was built by the famous architect Sir Christopher Wren after the Great Fire. The Cathedral is known for its **Whispering Gallery**. The excellent acoustics brings any sound to the opposite side. Famous people are buried there.

### **City of Westminster**

City of Westminster is known as the centre of political and administrative life.

**The Houses of Parliament** are the seat of Parliament. There is the **Victoria Tower**, the highest Gothic tower in the world and the **Clock Tower** with the famous bell **Big Ben**. The sound of Big Ben is used by BBC as a time signal.

..... is the place with best known theatres, cinemas, shops, restaurants and night-clubs. There is a statue of Eros, the Greek god of love in the middle of the square.

In the middle of ....., there is a high column with the statue of Horatio Nelson. It is also very popular place for demonstrations and meetings. At Christmas time a big decorated Christmas tree stands there. There is the **National Gallery**.

**Buckingham Palace** is the official royal residence. The Changing of the Guards is one of the biggest London's spectacles and it takes place every day at 11 a.m.

..... is burial place of kings and the site of modern coronation. Inside there is the well-known Poet's Corner where greatest poets, artists, politics and famous British people are buried (e.g. Newton, Darwin, Dickens, Chaucer). The **wedding of Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, and Catherine Middleton** took place there in 2011.

**Downing Street number 10** is the residence of British Prime Ministers.

London is also the centre of culture:

**Theatres** - there are more than 100 theatres, the most important one are the **National Theatre**, the **Barbican Complex** and the **Globe** which is the faithful reconstruction of Shakespeare's original theatre. The **Royal Albert Hall** is the most important concert hall.

**Galleries** - there are lots of galleries, e.g. **The National Gallery**, **The Tate Gallery** or **The National Portrait Gallery**.

**Museums** - The ..... - the largest museum in the world with 4 km of galleries and 6,5 million exhibits from all historical periods and world's largest collection of all kinds of animals, minerals, rocks etc.

..... holds a collection of wax figures of famous people.

### **Sports**

Sports are big business in London. Football is played at **Wembley Stadium**, tennis takes place on the grass courts at **Wimbledon** and **Lord's** is the home of English cricket.

## **Parks**

The largest open space in central London is ..... . It is also known for its **Speaker's Corner** where anyone is welcome to say freely what he or she wants except the Royal family. There is the **Serpentine Lake**, which divides park from the Kensington Gardens. It is a popular place for boating, sailing and bathing. Other major parks are **Kensington Gardens, Green Park, Saint James's** and **Regent's Park** (where London Zoo is located).

## **West End**

West End is the shopping centre of Britain with many theatres, cinemas, hotels, restaurants, and night clubs.

## **Other places of interest:**

**Greenwich** has the **Old Royal Observatory** and the **National Maritime Museum** which has one of the world's biggest collections of boats and navigational equipment. You can stand on the **prime meridian** there.

**The** ..... is the largest observation wheel in the world (150m high). It was built to celebrate the new millennium. The wheel never stops.

**Covent Garden** used to be a market, now it is the centre of entertainment. There are theatres around, you can stop and listen to the street buskers (pouliční zpěváci). The old market halls have been preserved and have shops there now.

..... is a department store especially popular with the rich and famous. Most people leave it with a typical huge green bag which carries anything you have just bought there. **Regent** and **Oxford Streets** contain a number of department stores - e.g. Selfridges, Harrods or major outlets of Marks and Spencer.

## **HW:**

**1. Have you ever been to London? What places have you visited?**

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.....

**2. Which places would you like to visit and why?**

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**3. What souvenirs do tourists buy there?**

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#### 4. What are the symbols of London for you?

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#### 5. What problems is London facing nowadays?

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#### Test - Vocabulary:

čelit	obchodní domy	zachovat
sbírka	zařízení	trh
vyhlídkové kolo	plachtění	mimo
vosk	svatba	konat se
sychravý / vlhký	podívaná	pohřeb / pohřbívání
korunovace	zničit	znovu vybudovat
zalidněný	patřit	sloup
opatství	zeměkoule / glóbus / svět / země	sídlo / obydlí
věž	krkavec	střežit / stráž