# London

London is the **capital city** of the United Kingdom. It has population about 12 million people now. It’s placed on the river **Thames** in **south**-**east** England.

## History

Before Christ there was a **Celtic** **settlement** called Lyndin. Then Roman occupied England. In **1666** almost all city was destroyed by **fire**. In the **19th** century it was the **largest** **city** of the world and also most important **financial** **centre**. But during **World** **War** **II** it was **heavily** **damaged** by the German bombing.

## Sights

There are a **lot** **of** **things** **to** **see** in London. First interesting things we can find in London **transportation** **services**. Firstly, there are **red** **double**-**deckers** which are used usually for short distance travels. For faster transportation, we can use **underground**, which is also famous because it is oldest **underground** in the world. It is long over **400** kilometres.

**St. Pauls Cathedral** is one of the largest cathedrals in the world. It was built in **17th** century in **renaissance** style by famous architect **Sir** **Christopher** **Wren**. Its famous place also thanks to its **Whispering** **gallery** which is place, where you can hear what people are **whispering** **on** **the** **other** **site** from you. This place was hardly **damaged** during World **War** II when it was hilted by bomb. Also **Prince** **Charles** and **Lady** **Diana** were married here. The city around this cathedral is the oldest part of the city.

**The Tower** was built in 11th century. It served as **royal** **palace** in the past, then as **prison** and now it’s a **museum**. Most important thing which they have here are **Crown** **Jewels** which are guarded by the **beefeaters**.

**Tower Bridge** is very important symbol of London. It was built in last century and it can **open** in the **middle**, when some large boat needs to float thought.

**Westminster Abbey** is the place, where Britain’s Kings and Queens are crowned. It is built in **gothic** architecture. In the **Poets** **Corner**, there are buried famous people such us Newton.

**Trafalgar Square** has name by the famous battle between **Admiral** **Nelson** and **Napoleon** at the Trafalgar. Nelson has a **statue** here as a memory for his victory. It’s used for **demonstrations**. On Christmas, there is big **Christmas** **tree** and there are also many people celebrating **New** **Year**.

**The national gallery** is another important place in the London. It’s in the **Trafalgar** **Square**. There are paintings of many European artists. We can go there for free.

The **houses** **of** **Parliament** are in Gothic style, it was rebuilt when the old building burned down. The only part which survives the fire was **Westminster** **Hall**. There is also famous clock-tower called **Big** **Ben.** It has characteristics sound of its bells.

Another interesting place is street called **Whitehall**. There are government offices.

**Downing Street** **10** is the official home of British Prime Minister.

There are many banks in the London too. The most famous is the **Bank** **of** **England**.

**Buckingham Palace** is the Queens residence. There is famous changing the Guards.

Famous shopping centres in London are **Piccadilly Circus, Regent Street** and **Oxford Street.**

There are many parks in London, for example **Green** **Park**, **St**. **James** **Park** or **Hyde** **Park**, where is the **Speakers** **corner** where anybody can have a speech.

There are also famous universities such us **Cambridge**, **Oxford** or **Brighton**.

## Other shits

There are **three** **airports** in London. One of them is the **largest** airport in the Europe. It’s called **Heathrow**.

England is the home of **football** and **tennis**. In **Wimbledon**, there is great tennis championship. In London are world-famous football teams such us **Arsenal** of **Chelsea**.

Another interesting place in London is **Royal** **Botanical** **Garden**. There is large collection of living plants.

London is really beautiful city full of sights and culture. One English writer Samuel Johnson said: **“When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life.”**