



>> When you're in London, visit the Tower of London (left), the football stadiums (middle), Buckingham Palace (right), the Big Ben and Houses of Parliament (below) and gardens such as the Kensington Palace Gardens (below right)

**POPULAR PICKS** We can't give you a definitive guide to the city, but here's a starter guide on what not to miss out on:

**Tower of London:** There's a brilliant tour that shows you where and what was going on during different periods in history. The historic castle, used as a royal residence and then as a prison, is worth a look. Not to mention the fact that it houses the spectacular Crown Jewels.

**London Eye:** What's a visit to London without a ride on the London Eye? The tallest Ferris wheel in Europe, also known as the Millennium Wheel, stands high on the banks of the River Thames and a round will help you get a bird's eye view of the city.

**Madame Tussaud's:** This may be one of the most expensive places on your list but you can't miss it. With the history about how she started off, to the lifelike waxworks — it's worth the time and money spent.

**Shakespeare's Globe:** Home to one of the world's best playwrights, you're have to visit The Globe Theatre when you're in London. Open all year round, the Globe Exhibition is the largest exhibition devoted to Shakespeare. There are tours throughout the day and if you're lucky enough to visit from May to October, you can catch a play being performed there as well.

**Piccadilly Circus:** Piccadilly Circus is not a circus, but a public space that's known for its shows, pomp and grandeur as well as for the winged statue of Eros. There's theatres and shops to keep you completely occupied.

**A London Tour:** On the symbolic red double decker bus, these tours take you around the city, giving you a quick glance at all the must-see sights. Don't use it as your only tour of London though as there's a lot more to see.

**Wembley Stadium:** Sports fans will want to make a trip down to Wembley just to soak in some English football. It's one of the largest football stadiums and quite an eyeful.

**London Dungeon:** A lot more than just a museum, this is a must-see if you want to know exactly what life in Renaissance England was like. It's almost like a haunted house and shows you history through grimly comic events.

**Kensington Palace:** We don't doubt you're going to make a visit to Kensington while you're traipsing through the palaces of London but what's special about this one in particular is that it was home to Diana, Princess of Wales and also houses the Orangery Restaurant, where you should stop by for a cup of English tea.



# AN IMPERIAL VISIT

Confused about what to do and where to go in the land of palaces, parks, Shakespeare and the big red bus? From popular picks to more affordable options, Rhea Dhanbhoora helps you get started

**ON A SHOESTRING BUDGET** Is soaking in the London air burning a hole in your pocket? Since even wandering around one of the colourful markets can see you a few pounds short at the end of the day, here's a few things you can see and do that doesn't cost a penny:

**Buckingham Palace:** The attraction at Buckingham isn't the palace itself but the changing of the Queen's Guard in the Forecourt. It's an experience to watch the spectacle from the front gates.

**Museum of London:** If history is your thing and you want to learn a little more about London, this museum will give you an insight into the history of London from Roman times till date.

**Parks:** Our favourites include the beautiful Kensington Gardens, Hyde Park with the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain, Regent's Park with its vast expanse of green and the rolling lawns of St. James's Park, with geese and pelicans.

**Houses of Parliament:** For a taste of some good old British politics, you are allowed free access to the Public Galleries



here. You can watch debates when parliament is in session and if you book well in advance, you can even get a free guided tour.

**Westminster Cathedral:** Churches and cathedrals in London are full of ancient architecture and art and the Westminster Cathedral is no different. Remember to be quiet though!

**Big Ben:** This one is a given, but there's no reason not to visit the Big Ben just because it's a cliché. While you may not be able to go inside, standing below it and watching the big clock strike at the hour is an English experience you cannot miss out on.

**King's Cross:** If you're a Harry Potter fan, you know why we're telling you to visit King's Cross station. Just try not to run into any walls — and be careful at night.

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