



London — the Capital of the UK

London is the capital of Great Britain, its political, economic and cultural centre. It is one of the largest cities in the world. Its population is more than 11 000 000 people. London is situated on the river Thames.

Traditionally London is divided into several parts: the City, the Westminster, the West End and the East End.

London has many places of interest. One of them is the Houses of Parliament, the seat of the British Government.

There one can see the famous Tower Clock Big Ben, the symbol of London. Big Ben is the real bell which strikes every quarter of an hour.



Another place of interest is Buckingham Palace. It's the residence of the Queen. There are many other places of interest in London: Trafalgar Square, Regent's Park, Westminster Abbey and, of course, the British Museum.

Standing in the centre of Westminster City, Buckingham Palace serves as the official residence and administrative headquarters for the monarch of the United Kingdom. The monarchy uses the palace as a place for royal hospitality and important state occasions.



Elizabeth II (Elizabeth Alexandra Mary; born 21 April 1926) is **Queen of the United Kingdom** and 15 other Commonwealth realms. The Queen has ruled for longer than any other Monarch in British history, becoming a much loved and respected figure across the globe.



Tower Bridge is a combined bascule and suspension bridge in London, built between 1886 and 1894. The bridge crosses the River Thames close to the **Tower of London** and has become a world-famous symbol of London.



The Tower of London, officially Her Majesty's Royal Palace and Fortress of the Tower of London, is a historic castle on the north bank of the River Thames in central London.



The London Eye, or the Millennium Wheel, is a cantilevered observation wheel on the South Bank of the River



Thames in London. It is Europe's tallest cantilevered observation wheel, and is the most popular paid tourist attraction in the United Kingdom with over 3 million visitors annually.

A double-decker bus is a bus that has two storeys or decks. Double-decker buses are used for mass transport in the United Kingdom, Europe, Asia and many former European possessions



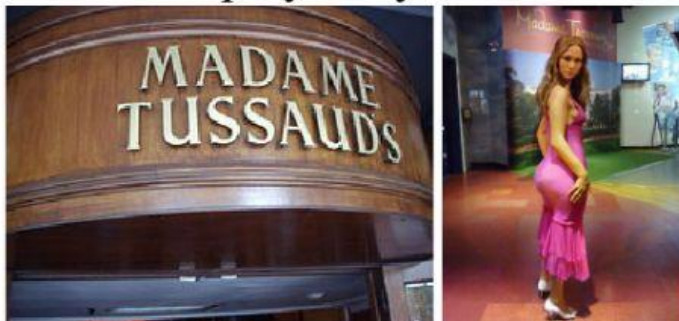
The London Underground (also known simply as the Underground, or by its nickname the Tube) is a rapid transit system serving Greater London and some parts of the



adjacent counties of Buckinghamshire, Essex and Hertfordshire in the United Kingdom.

Madame Tussauds is a wax museum in London; it has smaller museums in a number of other major cities. It was founded by wax sculptor Marie Tussaud in 1835. Madame Tussauds is a major tourist attraction in

London, displaying the waxworks of famous and historical figures, as well as popular film and television characters played by famous actors.



The pound sterling (symbol: £; ISO code: GBP), known in some contexts simply as the pound or sterling, is the official currency of the United Kingdom, Jersey, Guernsey, the Isle of Man, Gibraltar, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, the British Antarctic Territory, and Tristan da Cunha. It is subdivided into 100 pence (singular: penny, abbreviated: p). The “pound sterling” is the oldest currency in continuous use. Some nations that do not use sterling also have currencies called the *pound*.

