



Being a tourist in my own city

Hello, I'm Rebecca and I get to call this incredibly historic, often cold, often hectic yet magical city of London home. What is amazing about London is that amongst a city of 9 million people, tube stations, buses, minicabs (and Ubers), there is a gorgeous architecture that dates back to 600AD. Even though I've been living here all my life I realise I haven't been to many of the touristic places here so I decided to be a tourist for a day in my own city.

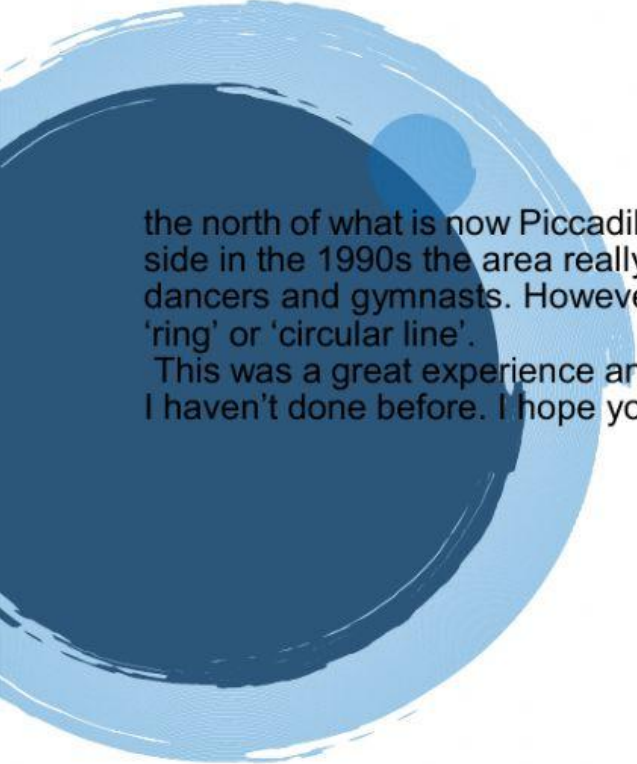
I started my journey in the St James Park, it has paved paths, grassy open space and a lake and it is near to the Buckingham palace which is our next stop. It is the residence of Queen Elizabeth II, a flag is hoisted each time she is in the palace. I got there near 11:00 a.m because it is when there is the "change of guard ceremony" where a new Guard replaces the existing Old Guard. People can visit a few rooms in the palace but only during summer. After that I went to Big Ben, it's Great-Britain's largest clock. It was built in 1858, has a gothic style and it's 96 metres high, it's one of the most famous and most iconic symbols of London.

Lunchtime and what's better than eating on a cruise on the Thames River? It's the longest river in England and you can see many sights along the way such as London Eye, St. Pauls Cathedral and more.

Next stop was St Paul's Cathedral. It's the second-largest cathedral in the world. It has a baroque structure and the interior will surely take your breath away. You can also climb 560 steps to reach the top of the dome and to keep you entertained three galleries are placed in your path.

London's Tower Bridge was the next, one of the most famous symbols of the capital city and one of the most recognizable bridges in the world. It took eight years to build it. Despite being world-famous, many people often mistake Tower Bridge for London Bridge. After that I went to The Shard, It's the tallest building in the European Union, 245 metres high, and it has a breathtaking view from its 72nd floor where you can have a 360 view of London.

Another must go attraction I decided to go was one of the most famous theatres in the world, Shakespeare's Globe, which is a recreation of the original Shakespeare Theatre, just less than 200m from the original. The plays are only staged in the summer but the theatre is open year round for educational purposes. Time to finish my journey so I went to Piccadilly Circus one of London's most hustling-bustling spot. An urban legend has grown up that the word Piccadilly comes from prostitution, but actually It came from a man who made his fortune from selling Picadils(collar worn by gents in court) and built his mansion just to



the north of what is now Piccadilly Circus. Since the pedestrianisation of the south side in the 1990s the area really has the feel of an open air circus, complete with dancers and gymnasts. However, the word 'Circus' comes from latin and means 'ring' or 'circular line'.

This was a great experience and I'm glad I did it. I can't believe how many things I haven't done before. I hope you enjoyed this journey as much as I did.

