A visit to London

London is probably the world's most visited city, such is its popularity. It draws in visitors from all over the globe. It is a huge city. So what should one see in London? Tourists should try a ride on a double decker bus; go on a journey on the London Underground and a trip in a London cab. Traditional sites to see include London Bridge and Tower Bridge. These are the two most famous bridges that cross the river Thames. HMS Belfast is located in between and is well worth a visit. The nearby Tower of London offers visitors the chance to see the crown jewels, the ravens and the Yeomanry of the Guard. The West End is for shopping. The area includes Oxford Street, Tottenham Court Road, Regent Street and Piccadilly. Here you can see the legendary Eros statue. If you go to Buckingham Palace in the summer you can go around it. Maybe take afternoon tea with the Queen. Maybe not! You could visit 10 Downing Street and see British Prime Minister David Cameron's residence.

Leicester Square is the centre of the West End nightlife. Here there are some fabulous bars, restaurants, theatres, cinemas and clubs to visit. Top movie premiers also start here. Restaurants are chock a block crammed full of tourists. Clubs cater all night to all tastes. It is said within half a circular mile of Leicester Square there are over 300 nationalities! In between Oxford Street and Leicester Square is Carnaby Street – the famous 60's fashion street. Reinvented, today it remains a draw. Adjoining it is Soho. This place is full of bars, gay bars, restaurants and sex shops. In nearby Regent Street you'll find Hamley's the world famous toy store. London pubs are highly popular. Whilst many new trendy bars have opened around the West End the old Victorian pubs are an absolute must to seek, locate and visit. In Trafalgar Square is Nelson's column that towers over the square. Until recently one could feed the pigeons here. Today feeding them is banned due to pigeon disease! Down by the river practically adjacent to Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament – where the British government meets - is the London Eye. Nearby is the Millennium Bridge to walk across.

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Another popular place to visit in London is St Paul's Cathedral. Built by Sir Christopher Wren it survived the Blitz in 1940. Covent Garden is a must to see. Once a famous flower market today visitors will find many wonderful bars and restaurants together with street entertainment. Opera lovers can try Covent Garden Opera House. The most famous shop in London must be Harrods in Knightsbridge. The food hall there is world famous. Treat yourself to something imported from all corners of the world. If you like to visit museums London is a good place to see them. There is the British Museum, the Tate Modern and the National Gallery for starters. Also the London Transport Museum or the Victoria & Albert Museum. Turn detective and visit The Sherlock Holmes Museum at 221b Baker Street.

Greenwich is another popular place to visit for a day out in London. Once a famous Royal Naval establishment, today you can visit the National Maritime Museum and the former Royal Naval College at Greenwich. Tourists can also visit the O2 arena. Greenwich is also the home of the Royal Observatory where you can see the famous meridian line. This is where GMT - Greenwich Mean Time starts.

A good place to take the kids is London Zoo in Regents Park. Other kid's favourites include the London Dungeons, Madame Tussauds and the London Planetarium. Here one can discover more about the planets. Hampton Court Palace on a boat from the centre of London or by car is another good place to take the kids. While the adults go round the palace, the kids can run wild around the famous old maze.

To the South West of London you'll find Kew Gardens and Richmond Park. Wonderful places to go but you'll need a car for the latter. The wild deer are a positive delight to see here. In the East End of London places to visit include Docklands, Canary Wharf and in the summer of 2012 the Olympic venues. To understand some of London's great history, the City of London is worth visiting. Bank Underground is in the heart of the City. London markets include Portobello Road in Notting Hill, the famous Victorian Leadenhall Market in the City of London, and Petticoat Lane. London parks to relax in include St James, Regents, and Hyde Park. Well known London football grounds to go to include Wembley, Arsenal, Chelsea, Tottenham Hotspur and West Ham. Other tourist attractions include Westminster Abbey, the Cabinet War Rooms, Shakespeare's Globe Theatre and the Royal Albert Hall. Go on - enjoy London!

What is the article about? What do you think about it?

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ravens

residence

maybe

statue

nearby

journey

tourists

probably

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pigeons

trendy

adjacent

centre

premiers

column

adjoining

pubs

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Discussion questions:

1. **Did the headline make you want to read the article?**
2. **What are the three things you would like about London?**
3. **What are the three things you would dislike about London?**
4. **Where do most tourists like to visit?**
5. **What do you think about what you read?**
6. **Would you consider having a meal in a traditional London pub?**
7. **What three places in London would you like to visit?**
8. **What do you think about the West End / East End?**
9. **Did you like this discussion?**

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