[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Pp-pc1](/wiki/Template:Pp-pc1) [Template:Use British English](/wiki/Template:Use_British_English) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Infobox settlement](/wiki/Template:Infobox_settlement)

**London** [Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en) is the [capital](/wiki/Capital_city) and most populous [city](/wiki/City) of [England](/wiki/England), [Great Britain](/wiki/Great_Britain), and the [United Kingdom](/wiki/United_Kingdom).[[1]](#cite_note-1)[[2]](#cite_note-2) On the [River Thames](/wiki/River_Thames) in the south east of the island of Great Britain, London has been a major settlement for two millennia. It was founded by the [Romans](/wiki/Roman_Empire), who named it [*Londinium*](/wiki/Londinium).<ref name=london\_001>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> London's ancient core, the [City of London](/wiki/City_of_London), largely retains its [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) [medieval](/wiki/Middle_Ages) boundaries. Since at least the 19th century, "London" has also referred to the metropolis around this core,[[3]](#cite_note-3) which now forms the county of [Greater London](/wiki/Greater_London)[[4]](#cite_note-4)[[5]](#cite_note-5)[[note 1]](#cite_note-6) governed by the [Mayor of London](/wiki/Mayor_of_London) and the [London Assembly](/wiki/London_Assembly),[[6]](#cite_note-7)[[note 2]](#cite_note-8)[[7]](#cite_note-9) historically split between [Middlesex](/wiki/Middlesex), [Essex](/wiki/Essex), [Surrey](/wiki/Surrey), [Kent](/wiki/Kent), and [Hertfordshire](/wiki/Hertfordshire).[[8]](#cite_note-10)[[9]](#cite_note-11)[[10]](#cite_note-12) London is a leading [global city](/wiki/Global_city),[[11]](#cite_note-13)[[12]](#cite_note-14) in the arts, commerce, education, entertainment, fashion, finance, healthcare, media, professional services, research and development, tourism, and transport.[[13]](#cite_note-15)[[14]](#cite_note-16)[[15]](#cite_note-17) It is one of the world's leading [financial centres](/wiki/Financial_centre)<ref name=GFCI>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>[[16]](#cite_note-18)[[17]](#cite_note-19) and has the [fifth-or sixth-largest metropolitan area GDP in the world](/wiki/List_of_cities_by_GDP).[[note 3]](#cite_note-20)<ref name=forpolgdp>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>[[18]](#cite_note-21) London is a world cultural capital.[[19]](#cite_note-22)[[20]](#cite_note-23)[[21]](#cite_note-24) It is the world's most-visited city as measured by international arrivals[[22]](#cite_note-25) and has the [world's largest city airport system](/wiki/World's_busiest_city_airport_systems_by_passenger_traffic) measured by passenger traffic.<ref name=capa1>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> London is one of the world's leading [investment](/wiki/Foreign_direct_investment) destinations,[[23]](#cite_note-26)[[24]](#cite_note-27)[[25]](#cite_note-28) hosting more [international retailers](/wiki/Retail#Global_top_ten_retailers)[[26]](#cite_note-29)[[27]](#cite_note-30) and [ultra high-net-worth individuals](/wiki/Ultra_high-net-worth_individual)[[28]](#cite_note-31)[[29]](#cite_note-32) than any other city. London's universities form the largest concentration of higher education institutes in Europe,[[30]](#cite_note-33) and a 2014 report placed it first in the world university rankings. According to the report London also ranks first in the world in software, multimedia development and design, and shares first position in technology readiness.[[31]](#cite_note-34) In [2012](/wiki/2012_Summer_Olympics), London became the first city to host the modern [Summer Olympic Games](/wiki/Summer_Olympic_Games) three times.<ref name=IOC>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

London has a diverse range of peoples and cultures, and more than 300 languages are spoken within Greater London.<ref name=london\_006>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Its estimated mid-2015 population was 8,673,713,<ref name=ons-pop-estimates/> the largest of any [city in the European Union](/wiki/Largest_cities_of_the_European_Union_by_population_within_city_limits),[[32]](#cite_note-35) and accounting for 12.5 per cent of the UK population.[[33]](#cite_note-36) [London's urban area](/wiki/Greater_London_Built-up_Area) is the second [most populous in the EU](/wiki/Largest_urban_areas_of_the_European_Union), after [Paris](/wiki/Paris), with 9,787,426 inhabitants at the 2011 census.[[34]](#cite_note-37) The [city's metropolitan area](/wiki/London_metropolitan_area) is one of the [most populous in Europe](/wiki/List_of_metropolitan_areas_in_Europe) with 13,879,757 inhabitants,[Template:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn)[[35]](#cite_note-38) while the [Greater London Authority](/wiki/Greater_London_Authority) states the population of the *city-region* (covering a large part of the south east) as 22.7 million.<ref name=gla-plan-2015>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> London was the [world's most populous city](/wiki/World's_largest_cities) from [around 1831 to 1925](/wiki/List_of_largest_cities_throughout_history).<ref name=london\_030>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

London contains four [World Heritage Sites](/wiki/World_Heritage_Site): the [Tower of London](/wiki/Tower_of_London); [Kew Gardens](/wiki/Kew_Gardens); the site comprising the [Palace of Westminster](/wiki/Palace_of_Westminster), [Westminster Abbey](/wiki/Westminster_Abbey), and [St Margaret's Church](/wiki/St_Margaret's,_Westminster); and the historic settlement of [Greenwich](/wiki/Greenwich) (in which the [Royal Observatory, Greenwich](/wiki/Royal_Observatory,_Greenwich) marks the [Prime Meridian](/wiki/Prime_Meridian), 0° [longitude](/wiki/Longitude), and [GMT](/wiki/Greenwich_Mean_Time)).<ref name=london\_005>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Other famous landmarks include [Buckingham Palace](/wiki/Buckingham_Palace), the [London Eye](/wiki/London_Eye), [Piccadilly Circus](/wiki/Piccadilly_Circus), [St Paul's Cathedral](/wiki/St_Paul's_Cathedral), [Tower Bridge](/wiki/Tower_Bridge), [Trafalgar Square](/wiki/Trafalgar_Square), and [The Shard](/wiki/The_Shard). London is home to numerous [museums](/wiki/List_of_museums_in_London), galleries, libraries, [sporting events](/wiki/Sport_in_London) and other cultural institutions, including the [British Museum](/wiki/British_Museum), [National Gallery](/wiki/National_Gallery), [Natural History Museum](/wiki/Natural_History_Museum,_London), [Tate Modern](/wiki/Tate_Modern), [British Library](/wiki/British_Library) and [West End](/wiki/West_End_theatre) theatres.[[36]](#cite_note-39) The [London Underground](/wiki/London_Underground) is the oldest underground railway network in the world.<ref name=Metro150>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>[[37]](#cite_note-40)[Template:TOC limit](/wiki/Template:TOC_limit)

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### Toponymy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|300px|The name *London* may derive from the](/wiki/File:London_Thames_Sunset_panorama_-_Feb_2008.jpg) [River Thames](/wiki/River_Thames) The [etymology of *London*](/wiki/Etymology_of_London) is uncertain.[[38]](#cite_note-41) It is an ancient name, found in sources from the 2nd century. It is recorded [Template:Circa](/wiki/Template:Circa)121 as [*Londinium*](/wiki/Londinium), which points to [Romano-British](/wiki/Romano-British) origin,[[38]](#cite_note-41) and hand-written Roman tablets recovered in the city from AD65/70-80 include the word *Londinio* ("in London").<ref name=NameTablets>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> The earliest attempted explanation, now disregarded, is attributed to [Geoffrey of Monmouth](/wiki/Geoffrey_of_Monmouth) in [*Historia Regum Britanniae*](/wiki/Historia_Regum_Britanniae).[[38]](#cite_note-41) This had it that the name originated from a supposed [King Lud](/wiki/Lud_son_of_Heli), who had allegedly taken over the city and named it *Kaerlud*.<ref name=london\_009>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>

From 1898, it was commonly accepted that the name was of [Celtic](/wiki/Celts) origin and meant *place belonging to a man called \*Londinos*; this explanation has since been rejected.[[38]](#cite_note-41) [Richard Coates](/wiki/Richard_Coates) put forward an explanation in 1998 that it is derived from the pre-Celtic [Old European](/wiki/Old_European_hydronymy) *\*(p)lowonida*, meaning 'river too wide to ford', and suggested that this was a name given to the part of the [River Thames](/wiki/River_Thames) which flows through London; from this, the settlement gained the Celtic form of its name, *\*Lowonidonjon*;<ref name=coates>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref> this requires quite a serious amendment however. The ultimate difficulty lies in reconciling the Latin form *Londinium* with the modern Welsh *Llundain*, which should demand a form *\*(h)lōndinion* (as opposed to \*londīnion), from earlier *\*loundiniom*. The possibility cannot be ruled out that the Welsh name was borrowed back in from English at a later date, and thus cannot be used as a basis from which to reconstruct the original name.

Until 1889, the name "London" officially applied only to the [City of London](/wiki/City_of_London), but since then it has also referred to the [County of London](/wiki/County_of_London) and now [Greater London](/wiki/Greater_London).[[3]](#cite_note-3)

### Prehistory[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

Two recent discoveries indicate probable very early settlements near the Thames in the London area. In 1999, the remains of a [Bronze Age](/wiki/Bronze_Age) bridge were found on the foreshore north of [Vauxhall Bridge](/wiki/Vauxhall_Bridge).[[39]](#cite_note-42) This bridge either crossed the Thames, or went to a now lost island in the river. Dendrology dated the timbers to 1500 BC.[[39]](#cite_note-42) In 2010 the foundations of a large timber structure, dated to 4500 BC, were found on the Thames foreshore, south of Vauxhall Bridge.[[40]](#cite_note-43) The function of the mesolithic structure is not known. Both structures are on South Bank, at a natural crossing point where the [River Effra](/wiki/River_Effra) flows into the River Thames.[[40]](#cite_note-43)

### Roman London[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[thumb|In 1300, the](/wiki/File:Map_of_London,_1300.svg) [City](/wiki/City_of_London) was still confined within the [Roman walls](/wiki/London_Wall). Although there is evidence of scattered [Brythonic](/wiki/Britons_(historical)) settlements in the area, the first major settlement was founded by the [Romans](/wiki/Roman_Empire) after the invasion of 43 AD.[[41]](#cite_note-44) This lasted only until around 61, when the [Iceni](/wiki/Iceni) tribe led by [Queen Boudica](/wiki/Boudica) stormed it, burning it to the ground.<ref name=london\_010>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The next, heavily planned, incarnation of Londinium prospered, and it superseded [Colchester](/wiki/Colchester) as the capital of the [Roman province](/wiki/Roman_Britain) of [Britannia](/wiki/Britannia) in 100. At its height in the 2nd century, Roman London had a population of around 60,000.

### Anglo-Saxon London (and Viking period)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

With the collapse of Roman rule in the early 5th century, London ceased to be a capital and the walled city of Londinium was effectively abandoned, although Roman civilisation continued in the [St Martin-in-the-Fields](/wiki/St_Martin-in-the-Fields) area until around 450.[[42]](#cite_note-45) From around 500, an [Anglo-Saxon](/wiki/Anglo-Saxon) settlement known as [Lundenwic](/wiki/Anglo-Saxon_London) developed in the same area, slightly to the west of the old Roman city.<ref name=london\_011>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> By about 680, it had revived sufficiently to become a major port, although there is little evidence of large-scale production of goods. From the 820s the town declined because of repeated [Viking](/wiki/Viking) invasions. There are three recorded Viking assaults on London; two of which were successful in 851 and 886 AD, although they were defeated during the attack of 994 AD.[[43]](#cite_note-46)[thumb|upright|The](/wiki/File:Siege_of_London_(MS_1168).jpg) [Lancastrian](/wiki/House_of_Lancaster) siege of London in 1471 is attacked by a [Yorkist](/wiki/House_of_York) sally.

The Vikings established [Danelaw](/wiki/Danelaw) over much of the eastern and northern part of England with its boundary roughly stretching from London to [Chester](/wiki/Chester). It was an area of political and geographical control imposed by the Viking incursions which was formally agreed to by the [Danish](/wiki/Danes) [warlord](/wiki/Warlord), [Guthrum](/wiki/Guthrum) and west-[Saxon](/wiki/Saxon) [king](/wiki/King), [Alfred the Great](/wiki/Alfred_the_Great) in 886 AD. The [*Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*](/wiki/Anglo-Saxon_Chronicle) recorded that London was "refounded" by [Alfred the Great](/wiki/Alfred_the_Great) in 886. Archaeological research shows that this involved abandonment of Lundenwic and a revival of life and trade within the old Roman walls. London then grew slowly until about 950, after which activity increased dramatically.[[44]](#cite_note-47) By the 11th century, London was beyond all comparison the largest town in England. [Westminster Abbey](/wiki/Westminster_Abbey), rebuilt in the [Romanesque](/wiki/Romanesque_architecture) style by King [Edward the Confessor](/wiki/Edward_the_Confessor), was one of the grandest churches in Europe. [Winchester](/wiki/Winchester) had previously been the capital of Anglo-Saxon England, but from this time on, London became the main forum for foreign traders and the base for defence in time of war. In the view of [Frank Stenton](/wiki/Frank_Stenton): "It had the resources, and it was rapidly developing the dignity and the political self-consciousness appropriate to a national capital."[[45]](#cite_note-48)[[46]](#cite_note-49)

### Middle Ages[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Westminster_Abbey_by_Canaletto,_1749.jpg)[Westminster Abbey](/wiki/Westminster_Abbey), as seen in this painting (Canaletto, 1749), is a [World Heritage Site](/wiki/World_Heritage_Site) and one of London's oldest and most important buildings Following his victory in the [Battle of Hastings](/wiki/Battle_of_Hastings), [William, Duke of Normandy](/wiki/William_the_Conqueror), was crowned [King of England](/wiki/King_of_England) in the newly finished Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day 1066.<ref name=london\_015>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> William constructed the [Tower of London](/wiki/Tower_of_London), the first of the many Norman castles in England to be rebuilt in stone, in the southeastern corner of the city, to intimidate the native inhabitants.<ref name=london\_016>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> In 1097, [William II](/wiki/William_II_of_England) began the building of [Westminster Hall](/wiki/Westminster_Hall), close by the abbey of the same name. The hall became the basis of a new [Palace of Westminster](/wiki/Palace_of_Westminster).<ref name=london\_017>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=london\_018>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

In the 12th century, the institutions of central government, which had hitherto accompanied the royal English court as it moved around the country, grew in size and sophistication and became increasingly fixed in one place. In most cases this was Westminster, although the royal treasury, having been moved from Winchester, came to rest in the Tower. While the [City of Westminster](/wiki/City_of_Westminster) developed into a true capital in governmental terms, its distinct neighbour, the City of London, remained England's largest city and principal commercial centre, and it flourished under its own unique administration, the [Corporation of London](/wiki/City_of_London_Corporation). In 1100, its population was around 18,000; by 1300 it had grown to nearly 100,000.<ref name=london\_019>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>

Disaster struck during the [Black Death](/wiki/Black_Death) in the mid-14th century, when London lost nearly a third of its population.[[47]](#cite_note-50) London was the focus of the [Peasants' Revolt](/wiki/Peasants'_Revolt) in 1381.<ref name=london\_020>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

### Early modern[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[thumb|Map of London in 1593. There is only one bridge across the Thames, but parts of Southwark on the south bank of the river have been developed.](/wiki/File:London_-_John_Norden's_map_of_1593.jpg)

During the [Tudor period](/wiki/Tudor_period) the [Reformation](/wiki/English_Reformation) produced a gradual shift to Protestantism, much of London passing from church to private ownership.<ref name=pevsner>[Pevsner, Nikolaus](/wiki/Nikolaus_Pevsner). *London I: The Cities of London and Westminster* rev. edition, 1962. Introduction p. 48.</ref> The traffic in [woollen](/wiki/Woollen) cloths shipped undyed and undressed from London to the nearby shores of the [Low Countries](/wiki/Low_Countries), where it was considered indispensable.[[48]](#cite_note-51) But the tentacles of English maritime enterprise hardly extended beyond the seas of north-west Europe. The commercial route to [Italy](/wiki/Italy) and the [Mediterranean Sea](/wiki/Mediterranean_Sea) normally lay through [Antwerp](/wiki/Antwerp) and over the [Alps](/wiki/Alps); any ships passing through the [Strait of Gibraltar](/wiki/Strait_of_Gibraltar) to or from England were likely to be Italian or [Ragusan](/wiki/Republic_of_Ragusa). Upon the re-opening of the [Netherlands](/wiki/Netherlands) to English shipping in January 1565, there ensued a strong outburst of commercial activity.[[49]](#cite_note-52) The [Royal Exchange](/wiki/Royal_Exchange,_London) was founded.[[50]](#cite_note-53) [Mercantilism](/wiki/Mercantilism) grew, and monopoly trading companies such as the [East India Company](/wiki/East_India_Company) were established, with trade expanding to the [New World](/wiki/New_World). London became the principal [North Sea](/wiki/North_Sea) port, with migrants arriving from England and abroad. The population rose from an estimated 50,000 in 1530 to about 225,000 in 1605.<ref name=pevsner/>

In the 16th century [William Shakespeare](/wiki/William_Shakespeare) and his contemporaries lived in London at a time of hostility to the development of the [theatre](/wiki/Elizabethan_theatre). By the end of the Tudor period in 1603, London was still very compact. There was an assassination attempt on [James I](/wiki/James_I_of_England) in Westminster, through the [Gunpowder Plot](/wiki/Gunpowder_Plot) on 5 November 1605.<ref name=london\_023>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>

[thumb|left|Vertue's 1738 plan of the](/wiki/File:Vertue's_1738_plan_of_the_London_Lines_of_Communication.jpg) [Lines of Communication](/wiki/Lines_of_Communication_(London)), built during the [English Civil War](/wiki/English_Civil_War). During the [English Civil War](/wiki/English_Civil_War) the majority of Londoners supported the [Parliamentary](/wiki/Roundhead) cause. After an initial advance by the [Royalists](/wiki/Cavaliers) in 1642 culminating in the battles of [Brentford](/wiki/Battle_of_Brentford_(1642)) and [Turnham Green](/wiki/Battle_of_Turnham_Green), London was surrounded by defensive perimeter wall known as the [Lines of Communication](/wiki/Lines_of_Communication_(London)). The lines were built by an up to 20,000 people, and were completed in under two months.[[51]](#cite_note-54)The fortifications failed their only test when the [New Model Army](/wiki/New_Model_Army) entered London in 1647,[[52]](#cite_note-55) and they were levelled by Parliament the same year.[[53]](#cite_note-56) London was [plagued](/wiki/Bubonic_plague) by disease in the early 17th century,<ref name=london\_024>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> culminating in the [Great Plague](/wiki/Great_Plague_of_London) of 1665–1666, which killed up to 100,000 people, or a fifth of the population.<ref name=london\_025>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

[thumb|The](/wiki/File:Great_Fire_London.jpg) [Great Fire of London](/wiki/Great_Fire_of_London) destroyed many parts of the city in 1666. The [Great Fire of London](/wiki/Great_Fire_of_London) broke out in 1666 in Pudding Lane in the city and quickly swept through the wooden buildings.[[54]](#cite_note-57) Rebuilding took over ten years and was supervised by [Robert Hooke](/wiki/Robert_Hooke)<ref name=london\_026>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=london\_027>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=london\_028>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> as Surveyor of London.<ref name=london\_029>The curious life of Robert Hooke, the man who measured London by Lisa Jardine</ref> In 1708 [Christopher Wren's](/wiki/Christopher_Wren) masterpiece, [St Paul's Cathedral](/wiki/St_Paul's_Cathedral) was completed. During the [Georgian era](/wiki/Georgian_era), new districts such as [Mayfair](/wiki/Mayfair) were formed in the west; new bridges over the Thames encouraged development in [South London](/wiki/South_London). In the east, the [Port of London](/wiki/Port_of_London) expanded downstream.

In 1762, [George III](/wiki/George_III_of_Great_Britain) acquired [Buckingham House](/wiki/Buckingham_Palace) and it was enlarged over the next 75 years. During the 18th century, London was dogged by crime, and the [Bow Street Runners](/wiki/Bow_Street_Runners) were established in 1750 as a professional police force.[[55]](#cite_note-58) In total, more than 200 offences were punishable by death,[[56]](#cite_note-59) including petty theft.[[57]](#cite_note-60) Most children born in the city died before reaching their third birthday.[[58]](#cite_note-61) The [coffeehouse](/wiki/Coffeehouse) became a popular place to debate ideas, with growing [literacy](/wiki/Literacy) and the development of the [printing press](/wiki/Printing_press) making news widely available; and [Fleet Street](/wiki/Fleet_Street) became the centre of the British press.

According to Samuel Johnson:

[Template:Quote](/wiki/Template:Quote)

### Late modern and contemporary[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[thumb|British volunteer recruits in London, August 1914](/wiki/File:British_recruits_August_1914_Q53234.jpg) [thumb|A bombed-out London street during](/wiki/File:LondonBombedWWII_full.jpg) [the Blitz](/wiki/The_Blitz) of the Second World War London was the world's [largest city from about 1831 to 1925](/wiki/List_of_largest_cities_throughout_history).<ref name=autogenerated1>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> London's overcrowded conditions led to [cholera](/wiki/Cholera) epidemics,[[59]](#cite_note-62) claiming 14,000 lives in 1848, and 6,000 in 1866.[[60]](#cite_note-63) Rising [traffic congestion](/wiki/Traffic_congestion) led to the creation of the world's first local urban rail network. The [Metropolitan Board of Works](/wiki/Metropolitan_Board_of_Works) oversaw infrastructure expansion in the capital and some of the surrounding counties; it was abolished in 1889 when the [London County Council](/wiki/London_County_Council) was created out of those areas of the counties surrounding the capital. [London was bombed by the Germans during the First World War](/wiki/German_strategic_bombing_during_World_War_I), and during the Second World War, [the Blitz](/wiki/The_Blitz) and other bombings by the German [*Luftwaffe*](/wiki/Luftwaffe) killed over 30,000 Londoners, destroying large tracts of housing and other buildings across the city. Immediately after the war, the [1948 Summer Olympics](/wiki/1948_Summer_Olympics) were held at the original [Wembley Stadium](/wiki/Wembley_Stadium_(1923)), at a time when London had barely recovered from the war.

In 1951, the [Festival of Britain](/wiki/Festival_of_Britain) was held on the [South Bank](/wiki/South_Bank). The [Great Smog](/wiki/Great_Smog) of 1952 led to the [Clean Air Act 1956](/wiki/Clean_Air_Act_1956), which ended the "[pea soup fogs](/wiki/Pea_soup_fog)" for which London had been notorious. From the 1940s onwards, London became home to a large number of [immigrants](/wiki/Immigrants), largely from [Commonwealth](/wiki/Commonwealth_of_Nations) countries such as [Jamaica](/wiki/Jamaica), India, [Bangladesh](/wiki/Bangladesh) and [Pakistan](/wiki/Pakistan), making London one of the most diverse cities in Europe.

[thumb|left|A view from Victoria Tower, in late 1920s](/wiki/File:London_Thames_(1930).jpg) Primarily starting in the mid-1960s, London became a centre for the worldwide [youth culture](/wiki/Youth_culture), exemplified by the [Swinging London](/wiki/Swinging_London) subculture associated with the [King's Road](/wiki/King's_Road), [Chelsea](/wiki/Chelsea,_London) and [Carnaby Street](/wiki/Carnaby_Street). The role of trendsetter was revived during the [punk](/wiki/Punk_rock) era. In 1965 London's political boundaries were expanded to take into account the growth of the urban area and a new [Greater London Council](/wiki/Greater_London_Council) was created. During [The Troubles](/wiki/The_Troubles) in Northern Ireland, London was subjected to bombing attacks by the [Provisional IRA](/wiki/Provisional_IRA). Racial inequality was highlighted by the [1981 Brixton riot](/wiki/1981_Brixton_riot).

Greater London's population declined steadily in the decades after the Second World War, from an estimated peak of 8.6 million in 1939 to around 6.8 million in the 1980s. The principal ports for London moved downstream to [Felixstowe](/wiki/Port_of_Felixstowe) and [Tilbury](/wiki/Port_of_Tilbury), with the [London Docklands](/wiki/London_Docklands) area becoming a focus for regeneration, including the [Canary Wharf](/wiki/Canary_Wharf) development. This was borne out of London's ever-increasing role as a major international financial centre during the 1980s. The [Thames Barrier](/wiki/Thames_Barrier) was completed in the 1980s to protect London against tidal surges from the [North Sea](/wiki/North_Sea).

The Greater London Council was abolished in 1986, which left London as the only large metropolis in the world without a central administration. In 2000, London-wide government was restored, with the creation of the [Greater London Authority](/wiki/Greater_London_Authority). To celebrate the start of the 21st century, the [Millennium Dome](/wiki/Millennium_Dome), [London Eye](/wiki/London_Eye) and [Millennium Bridge](/wiki/Millennium_Bridge_(London)) were constructed. On 6 July 2005 London was awarded the [2012 Summer Olympics](/wiki/2012_Summer_Olympics), making London the first city to stage the [Olympic Games](/wiki/Olympic_Games) three times.[[61]](#cite_note-64) On 7 July 2005, three [London Underground](/wiki/London_Underground) trains and a [double-decker bus](/wiki/Double-decker_bus) were bombed in a [series of terrorist attacks](/wiki/7_July_2005_London_bombings).<ref name=london\_031>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref> In January 2015, Greater London's population was estimated to be 8.63 million, the highest level since 1939.<ref name=gla-pop-2015>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

## Government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:Politics of London](/wiki/Template:Politics_of_London)

### Local government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) The administration of London is formed of two tiers—a city-wide, strategic tier and a local tier. City-wide administration is coordinated by the [Greater London Authority](/wiki/Greater_London_Authority) (GLA), while local administration is carried out by 33 smaller authorities.<ref name=london\_032>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The GLA consists of two elected components; the [Mayor of London](/wiki/Mayor_of_London), who has executive powers, and the [London Assembly](/wiki/London_Assembly), which scrutinises the mayor's decisions and can accept or reject the mayor's budget proposals each year. The headquarters of the GLA is [City Hall](/wiki/City_Hall_(London)), [Southwark](/wiki/Southwark); the mayor is [Sadiq Khan](/wiki/Sadiq_Khan).[[62]](#cite_note-65) The mayor's [statutory planning](/wiki/Statutory_planning) strategy is published as the [London Plan](/wiki/London_Plan), which was most recently revised in 2011.<ref name=london\_plan>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The local authorities are the councils of the 32 [London boroughs](/wiki/London_borough) and the [City of London Corporation](/wiki/City_of_London_Corporation).<ref name=london\_035>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> They are responsible for most local services, such as local planning, schools, [social services](/wiki/Social_work), local roads and refuse collection. Certain functions, such as [waste management](/wiki/Waste_disposal_authorities_in_London), are provided through joint arrangements. In 2009–2010 the combined revenue expenditure by London councils and the GLA amounted to just over £22 billion (£14.7 billion for the boroughs and £7.4 billion for the GLA).[[63]](#cite_note-66) The British Parliament is often referred to as the "Mother of Parliaments" (although this [*sobriquet*](/wiki/Sobriquet) was first applied to England itself by [John Bright](/wiki/John_Bright))[[69]](#cite_note-72) because it has been the model for most other [parliamentary systems](/wiki/Parliamentary_system).[[69]](#cite_note-72) There are 73 Members of Parliament (MPs) from London, who correspond to local parliamentary [constituencies](/wiki/List_of_Parliamentary_constituencies_in_Greater_London) in the national [Parliament](/wiki/British_House_of_Commons). As of May 2015, 45 are from the [Labour Party](/wiki/Labour_Party_(UK)), 27 are [Conservatives](/wiki/Conservative_Party_(UK)), and one is a [Liberal Democrat](/wiki/Liberal_Democrats).[[70]](#cite_note-73)

### Policing and crime[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

Policing in Greater London, with the exception of the [City of London](/wiki/City_of_London), is provided by the [Metropolitan Police Service](/wiki/Metropolitan_Police_Service), overseen by the Mayor through the [Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime](/wiki/Mayor's_Office_for_Policing_and_Crime) (MOPAC).[[71]](#cite_note-74)[[72]](#cite_note-75) The City of London has its own police force – the [City of London Police](/wiki/City_of_London_Police).[[73]](#cite_note-76) The [British Transport Police](/wiki/British_Transport_Police) are responsible for police services on [National Rail](/wiki/National_Rail), [London Underground](/wiki/London_Underground), [Docklands Light Railway](/wiki/Docklands_Light_Railway) and [Tramlink](/wiki/Tramlink) services.[[74]](#cite_note-77)A fourth police force in London, the [Ministry of Defence Police](/wiki/Ministry_of_Defence_Police), do not generally become involved with policing the general public.

Crime rates vary widely by area, ranging from parts with serious issues to parts considered very safe. Today crime figures are made available nationally at [Local Authority](/wiki/Local_authority#England)[[75]](#cite_note-78) and [Ward](/wiki/Ward_(England)) level.[[76]](#cite_note-79) In 2015 there were 118 homicides, a 25.5% increase over 2014.[[77]](#cite_note-80) The Metropolitan Police have made detailed crime figures, broken down by category at borough and ward level, available on their website since 2000.[[78]](#cite_note-81)

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

### Scope[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[thumb|Satellite view of inner London](/wiki/File:London,_United_Kingdom.JPG) [London](/wiki/Greater_London), also referred to as Greater London, is one of 9 [regions of England](/wiki/Regions_of_England) and the top-level subdivision covering most of the city's metropolis.[[note 4]](#cite_note-82) The small ancient [City of London](/wiki/City_of_London) at its core once comprised the whole settlement, but as its urban area grew, the [Corporation of London](/wiki/City_of_London_Corporation) resisted attempts to amalgamate the city with its suburbs, causing "London" to be defined in a number ways for different purposes.[[79]](#cite_note-83) Forty per cent of Greater London is covered by the [London post town](/wiki/London_postal_district), within which 'LONDON' forms part of postal addresses.<ref name=london\_042>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref><ref name=map\_post>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> The London telephone [area code](/wiki/Area_code) (020) covers a larger area, similar in size to Greater London, although some outer districts are omitted and some places just outside are included. The Greater London boundary has been [aligned to the M25 motorway](/wiki/List_of_Greater_London_boundary_changes) in places.<ref name=london\_044>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

Outward urban expansion is now prevented by the [Metropolitan Green Belt](/wiki/Metropolitan_Green_Belt),<ref name=london\_040>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> although the built-up area extends beyond the boundary in places, resulting in a separately defined [Greater London Urban Area](/wiki/Greater_London_Urban_Area). Beyond this is the vast [London commuter belt](/wiki/London_commuter_belt).<ref name=london\_041>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Greater London is split for some purposes into [Inner London](/wiki/Inner_London) and [Outer London](/wiki/Outer_London).<ref name=london\_045>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> The city is split by the River Thames into [North](/wiki/North_London) and [South](/wiki/South_London), with an informal [central London](/wiki/Central_London) area in its interior. The coordinates of the nominal centre of London, traditionally considered to be the original [Eleanor Cross](/wiki/Eleanor_Cross) at [Charing Cross](/wiki/Charing_Cross) near the junction of [Trafalgar Square](/wiki/Trafalgar_Square) and [Whitehall](/wiki/Whitehall), are approximately [Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord).<ref name=london\_039>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> However the actual Geographical centre of London is in the [London Borough of Lambeth](/wiki/London_Borough_of_Lambeth), just 0.1 miles to the northeast of [Lambeth North tube station](/wiki/Lambeth_North_tube_station).[[80]](#cite_note-84)

### Status[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

Within London, both the [City of London](/wiki/City_of_London) and the [City of Westminster](/wiki/City_of_Westminster) have [city status](/wiki/City_status_in_the_United_Kingdom) and both the City of London and the remainder of Greater London are [counties for the purposes of lieutenancies](/wiki/Ceremonial_counties_of_England).<ref name=london\_049>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The area of [Greater London](/wiki/Metropolitan_and_non-metropolitan_counties_of_England#Greater_London) has incorporated areas that were once part of the [historic counties](/wiki/Historic_counties_of_England) of [Middlesex](/wiki/Middlesex), [Kent](/wiki/Kent), [Surrey](/wiki/Surrey), [Essex](/wiki/Essex) and [Hertfordshire](/wiki/Hertfordshire).<ref name=london\_050>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> London's status as the capital of England, and later the United Kingdom, has never been granted or confirmed officially—by [statute](/wiki/Statute) or in written form.[Template:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn)

Its position was formed through [constitutional convention](/wiki/Constitutional_convention_(political_custom)), making its status as *de facto* capital a part of the [UK's unwritten constitution](/wiki/Constitution_of_the_United_Kingdom). The capital of England was moved to London from [Winchester](/wiki/Winchester) as the [Palace of Westminster](/wiki/Palace_of_Westminster) developed in the 12th and 13th centuries to become the permanent location of the [royal court](/wiki/Noble_court), and thus the political capital of the nation.<ref name=london\_060>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref> More recently, Greater London has been defined as a [region of England](/wiki/Regions_of_England) and in this context is known as *London*.<ref name=region/>

### Topography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[thumb|right|London from](/wiki/File:London_from_Primrose_Hill_May_2013.jpg) [Primrose Hill](/wiki/Primrose_Hill) [thumb|London from](/wiki/File:Forest_hill_1.jpg) [Forest Hill](/wiki/Forest_Hill,_London) Greater London encompasses a total area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), an area which had a population of 7,172,036 in 2001 and a population density of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). The extended area known as the London Metropolitan Region or the London Metropolitan Agglomeration, comprises a total area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) has a population of 13,709,000 and a population density of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[81]](#cite_note-85) Modern London stands on the [Thames](/wiki/River_Thames), its primary geographical feature, a [navigable](/wiki/Navigability) river which crosses the city from the south-west to the east. The [Thames Valley](/wiki/Thames_Valley) is a [floodplain](/wiki/Floodplain) surrounded by gently rolling hills including [Parliament Hill](/wiki/Parliament_Hill,_London), [Addington Hills](/wiki/Addington_Hills), and [Primrose Hill](/wiki/Primrose_Hill). The Thames was once a much broader, shallower river with extensive [marshlands](/wiki/Marsh); at high tide, its shores reached five times their present width.<ref name=london\_065>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>

Since the [Victorian era](/wiki/Victorian_era) the Thames has been extensively [embanked](/wiki/Thames_Embankment), and many of its London [tributaries](/wiki/Tributaries_of_the_River_Thames) now flow [underground](/wiki/Subterranean_rivers_of_London). The Thames is a tidal river, and London is vulnerable to flooding.<ref name=london\_066>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The threat has increased over time because of a slow but continuous rise in [high water](/wiki/Tide) level by the slow 'tilting' of Britain (up in the north and down in the south) caused by [post-glacial rebound](/wiki/Post-glacial_rebound).<ref name=london\_067>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

In 1974, a decade of work began on the construction of the [Thames Barrier](/wiki/Thames_Barrier) across the Thames at [Woolwich](/wiki/Woolwich) to deal with this threat. While the barrier is expected to function as designed until roughly 2070, concepts for its future enlargement or redesign are already being discussed.[[82]](#cite_note-86)

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|London in December 2013](/wiki/File:View_of_London_by_David_Holt.jpg) [thumb|Average summertime day temperatures range between](/wiki/File:Summer_Love_of_Russell_Square.jpg) [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). Although uncommon, temperatures as high as [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) have been recorded London has a temperate [oceanic climate](/wiki/Oceanic_climate) ([Köppen](/wiki/Köppen_climate_classification): *Cfb*), similar to all of southern Britain. Despite its reputation as being a rainy city, London receives less precipitation ([Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in a year), than [Rome](/wiki/Rome), [Bordeaux](/wiki/Bordeaux), [Toulouse](/wiki/Toulouse), [Naples](/wiki/Naples) and [Sydney](/wiki/Sydney).[[83]](#cite_note-87)[[84]](#cite_note-88)[[85]](#cite_note-89)[[86]](#cite_note-90)[[87]](#cite_note-91)[[88]](#cite_note-92) Temperature extremes for all sites in the London area range from [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) at Kew during August 2003 [[89]](#cite_note-93) down to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) at Northolt during January 1962.[[90]](#cite_note-94) Summers are generally warm and sometimes hot. London's average July high is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). On average London will see 31 days above [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) each year, and 4.2 days above [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) every year. During the [2003 European heat wave](/wiki/2003_European_heat_wave) there were 14 consecutive days above [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and 2 consecutive days where temperatures reached [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), leading to hundreds of heat related deaths.[[91]](#cite_note-95) Winters are generally cool and damp with little temperature variation. Snowfall occurs occasionally and can cause travel disruption when this happens. Snowfall is more common in Outer London. Spring and autumn are mixed seasons and can be pleasant. As a large city, London has a considerable [urban heat island](/wiki/Urban_heat_island) effect,[[92]](#cite_note-96) making the centre of London at times [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) warmer than the suburbs and outskirts. The effect of this can be seen below when comparing London Heathrow, 15 miles west of London, with the London Weather Centre, in the city centre.[[93]](#cite_note-97) [Template:Weather box](/wiki/Template:Weather_box)

[Template:Weather box](/wiki/Template:Weather_box)

### Districts[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

London's vast urban area is often described using a set of district names, such as [Bloomsbury](/wiki/Bloomsbury), [Mayfair](/wiki/Mayfair), [Wembley](/wiki/Wembley) and [Whitechapel](/wiki/Whitechapel). These are either informal designations, reflect the names of villages that have been absorbed by sprawl, or are superseded administrative units such as parishes or [former boroughs](/wiki/Metropolitan_boroughs_of_the_County_of_London).

Such names have remained in use through tradition, each referring to a local area with its own distinctive character, but without official boundaries. Since 1965 Greater London has been divided into 32 [London boroughs](/wiki/London_borough) in addition to the ancient City of London.<ref name=london\_071>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=london\_072>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> The City of London is the main financial district,<ref name=london\_073>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> and [Canary Wharf](/wiki/Canary_Wharf) has recently developed into a new financial and commercial hub in the [Docklands](/wiki/London_Docklands) to the east.

The [West End](/wiki/West_End_of_London) is London's main entertainment and shopping district, attracting tourists.<ref name=london\_075>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> [West London](/wiki/West_(London_sub_region)) includes expensive residential areas where properties can sell for tens of millions of pounds.<ref name=london\_076>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> The average price for properties in [Kensington and Chelsea](/wiki/Royal_Borough_of_Kensington_and_Chelsea) is over £2 million with a similarly high outlay in most of [central London](/wiki/Central_London).[[94]](#cite_note-98)<ref name=GuardAug14>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>

The [East End](/wiki/East_End_of_London) is the area closest to the original [Port of London](/wiki/Port_of_London), known for its high immigrant population, as well as for being one of the poorest areas in London.[[95]](#cite_note-99) The surrounding [East London](/wiki/North_East_(London_sub_region)) area saw much of London's early industrial development; now, [brownfield](/wiki/Brownfield_land) sites throughout the area are being redeveloped as part of the [Thames Gateway](/wiki/Thames_Gateway) including the [London Riverside](/wiki/London_Riverside) and [Lower Lea Valley](/wiki/Lower_Lea_Valley), which was developed into the [Olympic Park](/wiki/Olympic_Park,_London) for the [2012 Olympics and Paralympics](/wiki/London_2012_Olympic_bid).[[95]](#cite_note-99)

### Architecture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|The Tower, with Tower Bridge built 800 years later on the River Thames](/wiki/File:Tower_of_london_from_swissre.jpg) London's buildings are too diverse to be characterised by any particular [architectural](/wiki/Architectural) style, partly because of their varying ages. Many grand houses and public buildings, such as the [National Gallery](/wiki/National_Gallery), are constructed from [Portland stone](/wiki/Portland_stone). Some areas of the city, particularly those just west of the centre, are characterised by white [stucco](/wiki/Stucco) or whitewashed buildings. Few structures in central London pre-date the [Great Fire](/wiki/Great_Fire_of_London) of 1666, these being a few trace [Roman](/wiki/Ancient_Rome) remains, the [Tower of London](/wiki/Tower_of_London) and a few scattered [Tudor](/wiki/Tudor_architecture) survivors in the City. Further out is, for example, the [Tudor period](/wiki/Tudor_period) [Hampton Court Palace](/wiki/Hampton_Court_Palace), England's oldest surviving Tudor palace, built by Cardinal [Thomas Wolsey](/wiki/Thomas_Wolsey) [Template:Circa](/wiki/Template:Circa)1515.[[96]](#cite_note-100) [Wren's](/wiki/Christopher_Wren) late 17th-century churches and the financial institutions of the 18th and 19th centuries such as the [Royal Exchange](/wiki/Royal_Exchange,_London) and the [Bank of England](/wiki/Bank_of_England), to the early 20th century [Old Bailey](/wiki/Old_Bailey) and the 1960s [Barbican Estate](/wiki/Barbican_Estate) form part of the varied architectural heritage.

[thumb|left|upright|](/wiki/File:30_St_Mary_Axe_from_Leadenhall_Street.jpg)[30 St Mary Axe](/wiki/30_St_Mary_Axe), also known as "the Gherkin", towers over [St Andrew Undershaft](/wiki/St_Andrew_Undershaft). Modern architecture juxtaposed by historic architecture is seen often in London [thumb|Trafalgar Square and its fountains, with Nelson's Column on the right](/wiki/File:Trafalgar_Square_by_Christian_Reimer.jpg) The disused, but soon to be rejuvenated, 1939 [Battersea Power Station](/wiki/Battersea_Power_Station) by the river in the south-west is a local landmark, while some railway termini are excellent examples of [Victorian architecture](/wiki/Victorian_architecture), most notably [St. Pancras](/wiki/St_Pancras_railway_station) and [Paddington](/wiki/Paddington_railway_station).<ref name=london\_078>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The density of London varies, with high employment density in the [central area](/wiki/Central_London), high residential densities in [inner London](/wiki/Inner_London) and lower densities in [Outer London](/wiki/Outer_London).

[The Monument](/wiki/The_Monument) in the City of London provides views of the surrounding area while commemorating the [Great Fire of London](/wiki/Great_Fire_of_London), which originated nearby. [Marble Arch](/wiki/Marble_Arch) and [Wellington Arch](/wiki/Wellington_Arch), at the north and south ends of [Park Lane](/wiki/Park_Lane_(road)) respectively, have royal connections, as do the [Albert Memorial](/wiki/Albert_Memorial) and [Royal Albert Hall](/wiki/Royal_Albert_Hall) in [Kensington](/wiki/Kensington). [Nelson's Column](/wiki/Nelson's_Column) is a nationally recognised monument in [Trafalgar Square](/wiki/Trafalgar_Square), one of the focal points of central London. Older buildings are mainly brick built, most commonly the yellow [London stock brick](/wiki/London_stock_brick) or a warm orange-red variety, often decorated with carvings and white plaster [mouldings](/wiki/Moulding_(decorative)).<ref name=london\_077>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>

In the dense areas, most of the concentration is via medium- and high-rise buildings. London's [skyscrapers](/wiki/Skyscraper) such as [30 St Mary Axe](/wiki/30_St_Mary_Axe), [Tower 42](/wiki/Tower_42), the [Broadgate Tower](/wiki/Broadgate_Tower) and [One Canada Square](/wiki/One_Canada_Square) are mostly in the two financial districts, the [City of London](/wiki/City_of_London) and [Canary Wharf](/wiki/Canary_Wharf). High-rise development is restricted at certain sites if it would obstruct protected views of [St Paul's Cathedral](/wiki/St_Paul's_Cathedral) and other historic buildings. Nevertheless, there are a number of very tall skyscrapers in central London *(see* [*Tall buildings in London*](/wiki/Tall_buildings_in_London)*)*, including the 95-storey [Shard London Bridge](/wiki/Shard_London_Bridge), the [tallest building in the European Union](/wiki/List_of_tallest_buildings_in_the_European_Union).

Other notable modern buildings include [City Hall](/wiki/City_Hall_(London)) in [Southwark](/wiki/Southwark) with its distinctive oval shape,<ref name=london\_079>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> and the [British Library](/wiki/British_Library) in [Somers Town](/wiki/Somers_Town,_London)/[Kings Cross](/wiki/Kings_Cross,_London). What was formerly the [Millennium Dome](/wiki/Millennium_Dome), by the Thames to the east of Canary Wharf, is now an entertainment venue called [The O2 Arena](/wiki/The_O2_(London)).

[Template:Wide image](/wiki/Template:Wide_image)

### Natural history[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

The London Natural History Society suggest that London is "one of the World's Greenest Cities" with more than 40 percent green space or open water. They indicate that 2000 species of flowering plant have been found growing there and that the [tidal Thames](/wiki/Tideway) supports 120 species of fish.[[97]](#cite_note-101) They also state that over 60 species of bird nest in [central London](/wiki/Central_London) and that their members have recorded 47 species of butterfly, 1173 moths and more than 270 kinds of spider around London. London's [wetland](/wiki/Wetland) areas support nationally important populations of many water birds. London has 38 [Sites of Special Scientific Interest](/wiki/Sites_of_Special_Scientific_Interest) (SSSIs), two [National Nature Reserves](/wiki/National_Nature_Reserves) and 76 [Local Nature Reserves](/wiki/Local_Nature_Reserves).[[98]](#cite_note-102) [Amphibians](/wiki/Amphibians) are common in the capital, including [smooth newts](/wiki/Smooth_newt) living by the [Tate Modern](/wiki/Tate_Modern), and common [frogs](/wiki/Frog), common [toads](/wiki/Toad), [palmate newts](/wiki/Palmate_newt) and [great crested newts](/wiki/Great_crested_newt). On the other hand, native reptiles such as [slow-worms](/wiki/Slow-worm), [common lizards](/wiki/Common_lizard), [grass snakes](/wiki/Grass_snake) and [adders](/wiki/Vipera_berus), are mostly only seen in [Outer London](/wiki/Outer_London).[[99]](#cite_note-103) [thumb|left|Fox on Ayres Street,](/wiki/File:Flickr_-_Duncan~_-_Fox_Trot.jpg) [Southwark](/wiki/Southwark), [South London](/wiki/South_London)

Among other inhabitants of London are 10,000 foxes, so that there are now 16 foxes for every square mile (2.6 square kilometres) of London. These urban foxes are noticeably bolder than their country cousins, sharing the pavement with pedestrians and raising cubs in people's backyards. Foxes have even sneaked into the [Houses of Parliament](/wiki/Houses_of_Parliament), where one was found asleep on a filing cabinet. Another broke into the grounds of [Buckingham Palace](/wiki/Buckingham_Palace), reportedly killing some of Queen Elizabeth[Template:NbspII's](/wiki/Template:Nbsp) prized [pink flamingos](/wiki/Pink_flamingo). Generally, however, foxes and city folk appear to get along. A survey in 2001 by the London-based [Mammal Society](/wiki/Mammal_Society) found that 80 percent of 3,779 respondents who volunteered to keep a diary of garden mammal visits liked having them around. This sample cannot be taken to represent Londoners as a whole.<ref name=mammalreport>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>[[100]](#cite_note-104) Other mammals found in [Greater London](/wiki/Greater_London) are [hedgehogs](/wiki/Hedgehog), rats, mice, rabbit, shrew, vole, and squirrels,[[101]](#cite_note-105) In wilder areas of Outer London, such as [Epping Forest](/wiki/Epping_Forest), a wide variety of mammals are found including [hare](/wiki/Hare), [badger](/wiki/Badger), field, bank and water [vole](/wiki/Vole), [wood mouse](/wiki/Wood_mouse), [yellow-necked mouse](/wiki/Yellow-necked_mouse), [mole](/wiki/Mole_(animal)), [shrew](/wiki/Shrew), and [weasel](/wiki/Weasel), in addition to fox, squirrel and hedgehog. A dead otter was found at The Highway, in [Wapping](/wiki/Wapping), about a mile from the [Tower Bridge](/wiki/Tower_Bridge), which would suggest that they have begun to move back after being absent a hundred years from the city.[[102]](#cite_note-106) Ten of England's eighteen species of [bats](/wiki/Bat) have been recorded in Epping Forest: soprano, nathusius and common pipistrelles, noctule, serotine, barbastelle, daubenton's, brown Long-eared, natterer's and leisler's.[[103]](#cite_note-107) Among the strange sights seen in London have been a whale in the Thames,[[104]](#cite_note-108) while the BBC Two programme "Natural World: Unnatural History of London" shows pigeons using the [London Underground](/wiki/London_Underground) to get around the city, a [seal](/wiki/Pinniped) that takes fish from [fishmongers](/wiki/Fishmonger) outside [Billingsgate Fish Market](/wiki/Billingsgate_Fish_Market), and foxes that will "sit" if given sausages.[[105]](#cite_note-109) Herds of [red](/wiki/Red_deer) and [fallow deer](/wiki/Fallow_deer) also roam freely within much of [Richmond](/wiki/Richmond_Park) and [Bushy Park](/wiki/Bushy_Park). A cull takes place each November and February to ensure numbers can be sustained.[[106]](#cite_note-110) Epping Forest is also known for its [fallow deer](/wiki/Fallow_deer), which can frequently be seen in herds to the north of the Forest. A rare population of [melanistic](/wiki/Melanistic), black fallow deer is also maintained at the Deer Sanctuary near [Theydon Bois](/wiki/Theydon_Bois). [Muntjac deer](/wiki/Muntjac_deer), which escaped from deer parks at the turn of the twentieth century, are also found in the forest. While Londoners are accustomed to wildlife such as birds and foxes sharing the city, more recently urban deer have started becoming a regular feature, and whole herds of fallow and [white-tailed deer](/wiki/White-tailed_deer) come into residential areas at night to take advantage of the London's green spaces.[[107]](#cite_note-111)[[108]](#cite_note-112)

## Demography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:Table London top 10 birth countries](/wiki/Template:Table_London_top_10_birth_countries) [Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image)

The 2011 census recorded that 2,998,264 people or 36.7% of London's population are foreign-born making London the city with the [second largest immigrant population](/wiki/Foreign_born#Cities_With_Largest_Foreign_Born_Populations), behind [New York City](/wiki/New_York_City), in terms of absolute numbers. The table to the right shows the most common countries of birth of London residents. Note that some of the German-born population, in 18th position, are British citizens from birth born to parents serving in the [British Armed Forces](/wiki/British_Armed_Forces) in [Germany](/wiki/Germany).[[109]](#cite_note-113)With increasing industrialisation, London's population grew rapidly throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, and it was for some time in the late 19th and early 20th centuries the most populous city in the world. Its population peaked at 8,615,245 in 1939 immediately before the outbreak of the Second World War, but had declined to 7,192,091 at the 2001 Census. However, the population then grew by just over a million between the 2001 and 2011 Censuses, to reach 8,173,941 in the latter enumeration.[[110]](#cite_note-114) However, London's continuous urban area extends beyond the borders of Greater London and was home to 9,787,426 people in 2011,[[34]](#cite_note-37) while its wider [metropolitan area](/wiki/London_metropolitan_area) has a population of between 12 and 14 million depending on the definition used.<ref name=metro\_area\_1>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=metro2>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> According to [Eurostat](/wiki/Eurostat), London is the [most populous city and metropolitan area of the European Union](/wiki/Largest_cities_and_metropolitan_areas_in_the_European_Union_(Eurostat)) and the second [most populous in Europe](/wiki/List_of_metropolitan_areas_in_Europe) (or third if [Istanbul](/wiki/Istanbul) is included). During the period 1991–2001 a net 726,000 immigrants arrived in London.[[111]](#cite_note-115) The region covers an area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). The population density is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert),[[112]](#cite_note-116) more than ten times that of any other [British region](/wiki/NUTS:UK).<ref name=london\_087>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> In terms of population, London is the 19th [largest city](/wiki/World's_largest_cities) and the 18th [largest metropolitan](/wiki/List_of_metropolitan_areas_by_population) region in the world. [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), London has the largest number of billionaires (British Pound Sterling) in the world, with 72 residing in the city.<ref name=Billionaires>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> London ranks as one of the most expensive cities in the world, alongside Tokyo and Moscow.<ref name=london\_089>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>

### Ethnic groups[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:Pie chart](/wiki/Template:Pie_chart)

According to the [Office for National Statistics](/wiki/Office_for_National_Statistics), based on the [2011 Census](/wiki/United_Kingdom_Census_2011) estimates, 59.8 per cent of the 8,173,941 inhabitants of London were [White](/wiki/White_people), with 44.9 per cent [White British](/wiki/White_British), 2.2 per cent [White Irish](/wiki/Irish_migration_to_Great_Britain), 0.1 per cent [gypsy](/wiki/Gypsy_(term))/[Irish traveller](/wiki/Irish_traveller) and 12.1 per cent classified as [Other White](/wiki/Other_White).

20.9 per cent of Londoners are of [Asian](/wiki/British_Asian) and mixed-Asian descent. 19.7 per cent are of full Asian descent, with those of mixed-Asian heritage comprising 1.2 of the population. [Indians](/wiki/British_Indian) account for 6.6 per cent of the population, followed by [Pakistanis](/wiki/British_Pakistanis) and [Bangladeshis](/wiki/British_Bangladeshi) at 2.7 per cent each. [Chinese](/wiki/British_Chinese) peoples account for 1.5 per cent of the population, with [Arabs](/wiki/British_Arabs) comprising 1.3 per cent. A further 4.9 per cent are classified as "Other Asian".

15.6 per cent of London's population are of [Black](/wiki/Black_British) and mixed-Black descent. 13.3 per cent are of full Black descent, with those of mixed-Black heritage comprising 2.3 per cent. [Black Africans](/wiki/Black_British) account for 7.0 per cent of London's population, with 4.2 per cent as [Black Caribbean](/wiki/British_African-Caribbean_community) and 2.1 per cent as "Other Black". 5.0 per cent are of [mixed race](/wiki/Mixed_(United_Kingdom_ethnicity_category)).

Across London, [Black](/wiki/Black_British) and [Asian](/wiki/British_Asian) children outnumber [White British](/wiki/White_British) children by about six to four in state schools.<ref name=london\_094>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> Altogether at the 2011 census, of London's 1,624,768 population aged 0 to 15, 46.4 per cent were White, 19.8 per cent were Asian, 19 per cent were Black, 10.8 per cent were Mixed and 4 per cent represented another ethnic group.[[113]](#cite_note-117) In January 2005, a survey of London's ethnic and religious diversity claimed that there were more than 300 languages spoken in London and more than 50 non-indigenous communities with a population of more than 10,000.<ref name=london\_090>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> Figures from the [Office for National Statistics](/wiki/Office_for_National_Statistics) show that, [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), London's foreign-born population was 2,650,000 (33 per cent), up from 1,630,000 in 1997.

The 2011 census showed that 36.7 per cent of [Greater London's](/wiki/Greater_London) population were born outside the UK.<ref name=london\_092>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The table to the right shows the 30 most common countries of birth of London residents in 2011, the date of the last published [UK Census](/wiki/UK_Census).<ref name=Pop2011/> A portion of the German-born population are likely to be British nationals born to parents serving in the [British Armed Forces](/wiki/British_Armed_Forces) in Germany.<ref name=london\_095>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> Estimates produced by the [Office for National Statistics](/wiki/Office_for_National_Statistics) indicate that the five largest foreign-born groups living in London in the period July 2009 to June 2010 were those born in [India](/wiki/India), Poland, the Republic of Ireland, Bangladesh and [Nigeria](/wiki/Nigeria).<ref name=Estimates>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web) Figure given is the central estimate. See the source for 95 per cent [confidence intervals](/wiki/Confidence_interval).</ref>

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:Bar box](/wiki/Template:Bar_box)

According to the [2011 Census](/wiki/2011_UK_Census), the largest religious groupings are [Christians](/wiki/Christianity) (48.4 per cent), followed by those of [no religion](/wiki/Irreligion) (20.7 per cent), [Muslims](/wiki/Islam) (12.4 per cent), no response (8.5 per cent), [Hindus](/wiki/Hinduism) (5.0 per cent), [Jews](/wiki/Judaism) (1.8 per cent), [Sikhs](/wiki/Sikhism) (1.5 per cent), [Buddhists](/wiki/Buddhism) (1.0 per cent) and other (0.6 per cent).

London has traditionally been Christian, and has a [large number of churches](/wiki/List_of_churches_in_London), particularly in the City of London. The well-known [St Paul's Cathedral](/wiki/St_Paul's_Cathedral) in the City and [Southwark Cathedral](/wiki/Southwark_Cathedral) south of the river are [Anglican](/wiki/Anglicanism) administrative centres,<ref name=london\_096>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> while the [Archbishop of Canterbury](/wiki/Archbishop_of_Canterbury), principal bishop of the [Church of England](/wiki/Church_of_England) and worldwide [Anglican Communion](/wiki/Anglican_Communion), has his main residence at [Lambeth Palace](/wiki/Lambeth_Palace) in the [London Borough of Lambeth](/wiki/London_Borough_of_Lambeth).<ref name=london\_097>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

[thumb|right|upright|](/wiki/File:South_facade_of_St_Paul's_Cathedral_2011_1.jpg)[St Paul's Cathedral](/wiki/St_Paul's_Cathedral)

Important national and royal ceremonies are shared between [St Paul's](/wiki/St_Paul's_Cathedral) and [Westminster Abbey](/wiki/Westminster_Abbey).<ref name=london\_098>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The Abbey is not to be confused with nearby [Westminster Cathedral](/wiki/Westminster_Cathedral), which is the largest [Roman Catholic](/wiki/Roman_Catholic) cathedral in [England and Wales](/wiki/England_and_Wales).<ref name=london\_099>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Despite the prevalence of Anglican churches, observance is very low within the Anglican denomination. Church attendance continues on a long, slow, steady decline, according to Church of England statistics.<ref name=london\_100>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref>

London is also home to sizeable [Muslim](/wiki/Muslim), [Hindu](/wiki/Hindu), [Sikh](/wiki/Sikh), and [Jewish](/wiki/Jewish) communities. Notable mosques include the [East London Mosque](/wiki/East_London_Mosque) in Tower Hamlets, [London Central Mosque](/wiki/London_Central_Mosque) on the edge of [Regent's Park](/wiki/Regent's_Park)<ref name=london\_101>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> and the [Baitul Futuh](/wiki/Baitul_Futuh) Mosque of the [Ahmadiyya Muslim Community](/wiki/Ahmadiyya_Muslim_Community). Following the oil boom, increasing numbers of wealthy Hindus and [Middle-Eastern](/wiki/Middle-East) Muslims have based themselves around [Mayfair](/wiki/Mayfair) and [Knightsbridge](/wiki/Knightsbridge) in West London.[[114]](#cite_note-118)[[115]](#cite_note-119)<ref name=london\_102>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> There are large Muslim communities in the eastern boroughs of [Tower Hamlets](/wiki/London_Borough_of_Tower_Hamlets) and [Newham](/wiki/London_Borough_of_Newham).[[116]](#cite_note-120)Large Hindu communities are in the north-western boroughs of [Harrow](/wiki/London_Borough_of_Harrow) and [Brent](/wiki/London_Borough_of_Brent), the latter of which is home to Europe's largest [Hindu temple](/wiki/Hindu_temple), [Neasden Temple](/wiki/Neasden_Temple).<ref name=london\_103>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> London is also home to 42 Hindu temples. There are Sikh communities in East and West London, particularly in Southall, home to one of the largest Sikh populations and the largest Sikh temple outside India.<ref name=london\_104>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>

The majority of [British Jews](/wiki/British_Jews) live in London, with significant Jewish communities in [Stamford Hill](/wiki/Stamford_Hill), [Stanmore](/wiki/Stanmore), [Golders Green](/wiki/Golders_Green), [Finchley](/wiki/Finchley), [Hampstead](/wiki/Hampstead), [Hendon](/wiki/Hendon) and [Edgware](/wiki/Edgware) in [North London](/wiki/North_London). [Bevis Marks Synagogue](/wiki/Bevis_Marks_Synagogue) in the [City of London](/wiki/City_of_London) is affiliated to London's historic [Sephardic](/wiki/Sephardic) Jewish community. It is the only synagogue in Europe which has held regular services continuously for over 300 years. [Stanmore and Canons Park Synagogue](/wiki/Stanmore_and_Canons_Park_Synagogue) has the largest membership of any single Orthodox synagogue in the whole of Europe, overtaking [Ilford](/wiki/Ilford) synagogue (also in London) in 1998.<ref name=london\_106>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The community set up the [London Jewish Forum](/wiki/London_Jewish_Forum) in 2006 in response to the growing significance of devolved London Government.<ref name=london\_107>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>

### Accent[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

There are many accents that are traditionally thought of as London accents. The most well known of the London accents long ago acquired the [Cockney](/wiki/Cockney) label, which is heard both in London itself, and across the wider [South East England](/wiki/South_East_England) region more generally.[[117]](#cite_note-121) The accent of a 21st-century Londoner varies widely; what is becoming more and more common amongst the under-30s however is some fusion of Cockney with a whole array of ethnic accents, in particular [Caribbean](/wiki/Caribbean), which form an accent labelled [Multicultural London English](/wiki/Multicultural_London_English) (MLE).[[118]](#cite_note-122) The other widely heard and spoken accent is RP ([Received Pronunciation](/wiki/Received_Pronunciation)) in various forms, which can often be heard in the media and many of other traditional professions and beyond, although this accent is not limited to London and South East England, and can also be heard selectively throughout the whole UK amongst certain social groupings.

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|250px|The](/wiki/File:2016-02_City_of_London.jpg) [City of London](/wiki/City_of_London). London is one of the largest financial centres in the world.[[119]](#cite_note-123)

London generates about 20 per cent of [the UK's GDP](/wiki/Economy_of_the_United_Kingdom)[[120]](#cite_note-124) (or $446 billion in 2005); while the economy of the [London metropolitan area](/wiki/London_metropolitan_area)—[the largest in Europe](/wiki/List_of_cities_by_GDP#Europe,_Western)—generates about 30 per cent of the UK's GDP (or an estimated $669 billion in 2005).<ref name=london\_109>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> London is one of the pre-eminent financial centres of the world as the most important location for international finance.[[121]](#cite_note-125)[[122]](#cite_note-126) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of) London tops the world rankings on the [global financial centres index](/wiki/Global_Financial_Centres_Index).[[123]](#cite_note-127) London's largest industry is finance, and its [financial exports](/wiki/Financial_export) make it a large contributor to the UK's [balance of payments](/wiki/Balance_of_payments). Around 325,000 people were employed in financial services in London until mid-2007. London has over 480 overseas banks, more than any other city in the world. Over 85 percent (3.2 million) of the employed population of greater London works in the services industries. Because of its prominent global role, London's economy had been affected by the [Late-2000s financial crisis](/wiki/Late-2000s_financial_crisis). However, by 2010 the City has recovered; put in place new regulatory powers, proceeded to regain lost ground and re-established London's economic dominance.[[124]](#cite_note-128) The [City of London](/wiki/City_of_London) is home to the [Bank of England](/wiki/Bank_of_England), [London Stock Exchange](/wiki/London_Stock_Exchange), and [Lloyd's of London](/wiki/Lloyd's_of_London) insurance market.

Over half of the UK's top 100 listed companies (the [FTSE 100](/wiki/FTSE_100)) and over 100 of Europe's 500 largest companies have their headquarters in central London. Over 70 per cent of the FTSE 100 are within London's metropolitan area, and 75 per cent of [Fortune 500](/wiki/Fortune_500) companies have offices in London.<ref name=london\_113>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Canary-wharf-one.jpg)[Canary Wharf](/wiki/Canary_Wharf) is one of the biggest financial centres in Europe and is home to some of the [UK's tallest buildings](/wiki/List_of_tallest_buildings_in_the_United_Kingdom).

Along with [professional services](/wiki/Professional_services), media companies are [concentrated in London](/wiki/Media_in_London) and the media distribution industry is London's second most competitive sector.<ref name=london\_114>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The [BBC](/wiki/BBC) is a significant employer, while other broadcasters also have headquarters around the City. Many [national newspapers](/wiki/List_of_newspapers_in_the_United_Kingdom) are edited in London. London is a major retail centre and in 2010 had the highest non-food retail sales of any city in the world, with a total spend of around £64.2 billion.[[125]](#cite_note-129) The [Port of London](/wiki/Port_of_London) is the second-largest in the United Kingdom, handling 45 million [tonnes](/wiki/Tonne) of cargo each year.<ref name=handling/>

London has five major business districts: the City, Westminster, Canary Wharf, Camden & Islington and Lambeth & Southwark. One way to get an idea of their relative importance is to look at relative amounts of office space: Greater London had 27 million m2 of office space in 2001, and the City contains the most space, with 8 million m2 of office space. London has some of the highest real estate prices in the world.[[126]](#cite_note-130)[[127]](#cite_note-131) A growing number of technology companies are based in London notably in [East London Tech City](/wiki/East_London_Tech_City), also known as Silicon Roundabout. In April 2014, the city was among the first to receive a [geoTLD](/wiki/GeoTLD).[[128]](#cite_note-132) In 2014 *Forbes* magazine ranked London as the most influential city in the world.[[129]](#cite_note-133) In February 2014 London was ranked as the European City of the Future [[130]](#cite_note-134) in the 2014/15 list by [FDi Magazine](/wiki/FDi_Magazine).[[131]](#cite_note-135) London is the world's most expensive office market for the last three years according to world property journal (2015) report.[[132]](#cite_note-136) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of) the residential property in London is worth $2.2 trillion - same value as that of Brazil annual GDP.[[133]](#cite_note-137) The city has the highest property prices of any European city according to the Office for National Statistics and the European Office of Statistics.[[134]](#cite_note-138) On average the price per square metre in central London is €24,252 (April 2014). This is higher than the property prices in other G8 European capital cities; Berlin €3,306, Rome €6,188 and Paris €11,229.[[135]](#cite_note-139) The gas and electricity distribution networks that manage and operate the towers, cables and pressure systems that deliver energy to consumers across the city are managed by [National Grid plc](/wiki/National_Grid_plc), [SGN](/wiki/SGN_(company))[[136]](#cite_note-140) and [UK Power Networks](/wiki/UK_Power_Networks).[[137]](#cite_note-141)

### Tourism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|right|upright|The](/wiki/File:Entrance_to_Natural_History_Museum,_Cromwell_Road,_London_SW7_-_geograph.org.uk_-_1034304.jpg) [Natural History Museum](/wiki/Natural_History_Museum,_London) London is one of the leading tourist destinations in the world and in 2015 was ranked as the most visited city in the world with over 65 million visits.[[138]](#cite_note-142)[[139]](#cite_note-143) It is also the top city in the world by visitor cross-border spending, estimated at US$20.23 billion in 2015[[140]](#cite_note-144) Tourism is one of London's prime industries, employing the equivalent of 350,000 full-time workers in 2003,<ref name=london\_117>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> and the city accounts for 54% of all inbound visitor spend in UK.[[141]](#cite_note-145) As of 2016 London is rated as the world top ranked city destination by [TripAdvisor](/wiki/TripAdvisor) users.[[142]](#cite_note-146) In 2010 the ten most-visited attractions in London were:[[143]](#cite_note-147)# [British Museum](/wiki/British_Museum)

1. [Tate Modern](/wiki/Tate_Modern)
2. [National Gallery](/wiki/National_Gallery)
3. [Natural History Museum](/wiki/Natural_History_Museum,_London)
4. [Imperial War Museum](/wiki/Imperial_War_Museum)
5. [Science Museum](/wiki/Science_Museum_(London))
6. [Victoria and Albert Museum](/wiki/Victoria_and_Albert_Museum)
7. [Madame Tussauds](/wiki/Madame_Tussauds)
8. [National Maritime Museum](/wiki/National_Maritime_Museum)
9. [Tower of London](/wiki/Tower_of_London)

The number of hotel rooms in London in 2015 stands at 138,769 which is expected to grow over the years.[[144]](#cite_note-148)

### Housing crisis[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Thousands of homeless families find themselves stuck in emergency accommodation for at least two years.[[145]](#cite_note-149)A growth in the number of UK households has led to the homeless charity [Shelter](/wiki/Shelter_(charity)) stating: "This growth is a result of people living longer, more people living alone or in smaller households, and net migration."[[146]](#cite_note-150)

## Transport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [right|thumb|A black London taxi, also known as a](/wiki/File:Black_London_Cab.jpg) [hackney carriage](/wiki/Hackney_carriage). Transport is one of the four main areas of policy administered by the Mayor of London,<ref name=london\_121>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> however the mayor's financial control does not extend to the longer distance rail network that enters London. In 2007 he assumed responsibility for some local lines, which now form the [London Overground](/wiki/London_Overground) network, adding to the existing responsibility for the London Underground, trams and buses. The public transport network is administered by [Transport for London](/wiki/Transport_for_London) (TfL) and is one of the most extensive in the world.

The lines that formed the London Underground, as well as trams and buses, became part of an integrated transport system in 1933 when the [London Passenger Transport Board](/wiki/London_Passenger_Transport_Board) or [*London Transport*](/wiki/London_Transport_(brand)) was created. Transport for London is now the statutory corporation responsible for most aspects of the transport system in Greater London, and is run by a board and a commissioner appointed by the [Mayor of London](/wiki/Mayor_of_London).<ref name=stat\_tfl>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

### Aviation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Heathrow_Terminal_5C_Iwelumo-1.jpg)[London Heathrow Airport](/wiki/London_Heathrow_Airport) is the busiest airport in Europe as well as the second busiest in the world for international passenger traffic. ([Terminal 5C](/wiki/London_Heathrow_Terminal_5) is pictured)

London is a major international air transport hub with the [busiest city airspace in the world](/wiki/World's_busiest_city_airport_systems_by_passenger_traffic). Eight airports use the word *London* in their name, but most traffic passes through six of these. [London Heathrow Airport](/wiki/London_Heathrow_Airport), in [Hillingdon](/wiki/London_Borough_of_Hillingdon), West London, is the [busiest airport in the world](/wiki/World's_busiest_airport) for international traffic, and is the major hub of the nation's flag carrier, [British Airways](/wiki/British_Airways).<ref name=london\_135>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> In March 2008 its fifth terminal was opened.<ref name=london\_137>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> There were plans for a third runway and a sixth terminal; however, these were cancelled by the [Coalition Government](/wiki/United_Kingdom_coalition_government_(2010–present)) on 12 May 2010.[[147]](#cite_note-151) Similar traffic, with some [cheap](/wiki/Low-cost_carrier) [short-haul](/wiki/Short-haul) flights, is also handled at [Gatwick Airport](/wiki/Gatwick_Airport), south of London in [West Sussex](/wiki/West_Sussex).<ref name=london\_139>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

[Stansted Airport](/wiki/London_Stansted_Airport), north east of London in [Essex](/wiki/Essex), is a local UK hub and [Luton Airport](/wiki/London_Luton_Airport) to the north of London in [Bedfordshire](/wiki/Bedfordshire), caters mostly for cheap short-haul flights.<ref name=london\_140>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref><ref name=london\_141>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> [London City Airport](/wiki/London_City_Airport), the smallest and most central airport, in [Newham](/wiki/London_Borough_of_Newham), East London, is focused on business travellers, with a mixture of full service short-haul scheduled flights and considerable [business jet](/wiki/Business_jet) traffic.<ref name=london\_142>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> [London Southend Airport](/wiki/London_Southend_Airport), east of London in [Essex](/wiki/Essex), is a smaller, regional airport that mainly caters for cheap short-haul flights.

### Rail[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

#### Underground and DLR[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

[thumb|The](/wiki/File:Baker_Street_tube_station_MMB_19_S_Stock.jpg) [London Underground](/wiki/London_Underground) is the world's oldest and second-longest [rapid transit](/wiki/Rapid_transit) system The [London Underground](/wiki/London_Underground), commonly referred to as the Tube, is the oldest[[148]](#cite_note-152) and second longest[[37]](#cite_note-40) [metro](/wiki/Rapid_transit) system in the world. The system serves 270 [stations](/wiki/Metro_station)[[149]](#cite_note-153) and was formed from several private companies, including the world's first underground electric line, the [City and South London Railway](/wiki/City_and_South_London_Railway).[[150]](#cite_note-154) It dates from 1863.

Over three million journeys are made every day on the Underground network, over 1 billion each year.<ref name=london\_124>[Template:Cite press release](/wiki/Template:Cite_press_release)</ref> An investment programme is attempting to reduce congestion and improve reliability, including £6.5 billion (€7.7 billion) spent before the [2012 Summer Olympics](/wiki/2012_Summer_Olympics).[[151]](#cite_note-155) The [Docklands Light Railway (DLR)](/wiki/Docklands_Light_Railway), which opened in 1987, is a second, more [local metro system](/wiki/Medium-capacity_rail_transport_system) using smaller and lighter tram-type vehicles that serve [Docklands](/wiki/London_Docklands) and [Greenwich](/wiki/Greenwich).

#### Suburban[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:King's_Cross_Western_Concourse.jpg)[King's Cross railway station](/wiki/King's_Cross_railway_station) Western Concourse There are 366 [railway stations](/wiki/Railway_stations) in the [London Travelcard Zones](/wiki/London_fare_zones) on an extensive above-ground suburban railway network. South London, particularly, has a high concentration of railways as it has fewer Underground lines. Most rail lines terminate around the centre of London, running into [eighteen terminal stations](/wiki/London_station_group), with the exception of the [Thameslink](/wiki/Thameslink) trains connecting [Bedford](/wiki/Bedford) in the north and [Brighton](/wiki/Brighton) in the south via [Luton](/wiki/London_Luton_Airport) and [Gatwick](/wiki/Gatwick_Airport) airports.[[152]](#cite_note-156) London has Britain's busiest station by number of passengers – [Waterloo](/wiki/London_Waterloo_station), with over 184 million people using the interchange station complex (which includes [Waterloo East](/wiki/London_Waterloo_East_railway_station) station) each year.[[153]](#cite_note-157)[[154]](#cite_note-158) [Template:Rws](/wiki/Template:Rws) is the busiest station in Europe by the number of trains passing.

With the need for more rail capacity in London, [Crossrail](/wiki/Crossrail) is due to open in 2018. It will be a new railway line running east to west through London and into the [Home Counties](/wiki/Home_Counties) with a branch to [Heathrow Airport](/wiki/Heathrow_Airport).[[155]](#cite_note-159) It is Europe's biggest construction project, with a £15 billion projected cost.[[156]](#cite_note-160)[[157]](#cite_note-161)

#### Inter-city and international[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:St_Pancras_railway_station_MMB_B9_373213.jpg)[St Pancras railway station](/wiki/St_Pancras_railway_station) is the main terminal for high speed [Eurostar](/wiki/Eurostar) and [HS1](/wiki/HS1) services, as well as suburban [Thameslink](/wiki/Thameslink) and [East Midlands Trains](/wiki/East_Midlands_Trains) services.

London is the centre of the [National Rail](/wiki/National_Rail) network, with 70 percent of rail journeys starting or ending in London.[[158]](#cite_note-162) Like suburban rail services, regional and inter-city trains depart from several termini around the city centre, linking London with the rest of Britain including [Birmingham](/wiki/Birmingham), [Brighton](/wiki/Brighton), [Reading](/wiki/Reading,_Berkshire), [Bristol](/wiki/Bristol), [Cardiff](/wiki/Cardiff), [Derby](/wiki/Derby), [Exeter](/wiki/Exeter), [Sheffield](/wiki/Sheffield), [Southampton](/wiki/Southampton), [Leeds](/wiki/Leeds), [Manchester](/wiki/Manchester), [Cambridge](/wiki/Cambridge), [Newcastle-upon-Tyne](/wiki/Newcastle-upon-Tyne), [Edinburgh](/wiki/Edinburgh) and [Glasgow](/wiki/Glasgow).

Some international railway services to [Continental Europe](/wiki/Continental_Europe) were operated during the 20th century as [boat trains](/wiki/Boat_train), such as the [*Admiraal de Ruijter*](/wiki/Admiraal_de_Ruijter_(train)) to [Amsterdam](/wiki/Amsterdam) and the [*Night Ferry*](/wiki/Night_Ferry) to Paris and Brussels. The opening of the [Channel Tunnel](/wiki/Channel_Tunnel) in 1994 connected London directly to the continental rail network, allowing [Eurostar](/wiki/Eurostar) services to begin. Since 2007, high-speed trains link [St. Pancras International](/wiki/St_Pancras_railway_station) with [Lille](/wiki/Lille), [Paris](/wiki/Paris), [Brussels](/wiki/Brussels) and European tourist destinations via the [High Speed 1](/wiki/High_Speed_1) rail link and the [Channel Tunnel](/wiki/Channel_Tunnel).<ref name=london\_128>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The first [high-speed domestic](/wiki/Southeastern_(train_operating_company)) trains started in June 2009 linking [Kent](/wiki/Kent) to London.[[159]](#cite_note-163) There are plans for a [second high speed line](/wiki/High_Speed_2) linking London to the Midlands, North West England, and Yorkshire.

#### Freight[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

Although [rail freight](/wiki/Rail_freight) levels are far down compared to their height, significant quantities of cargo are also carried into and out of London by rail; chiefly building materials and [landfill](/wiki/Landfill) waste.[[160]](#cite_note-164) As a major hub of the British railway network, London's tracks also carry large amounts of freight for the other regions, such as [container freight](/wiki/Containerisation) from the Channel Tunnel and [English Channel](/wiki/English_Channel) ports, and [nuclear waste](/wiki/Nuclear_waste) for [reprocessing](/wiki/Nuclear_reprocessing) at [Sellafield](/wiki/Sellafield).[[160]](#cite_note-164)

### Buses and trams[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]

[thumb|The](/wiki/File:Arriva_London_bus_DW262_(LJ59_GUA),_18_September_2010.jpg) [red double decker bus](/wiki/London_buses) is an iconic symbol of London London's [bus network](/wiki/London_Buses) is one of the largest in the world, running 24 hours a day, with about 8,500 buses, more than 700 bus routes and around 19,500 bus stops.[[161]](#cite_note-165) In 2013, the network had more than 2 billion commuter trips per annum, more than the Underground.[[161]](#cite_note-165) Around £850 million is taken in revenue each year. London has the largest wheelchair accessible network in the world<ref name=london\_131>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> and, from the 3rd quarter of 2007, became more accessible to hearing and visually impaired passengers as audio-visual announcements were introduced. The distinctive red [double-decker buses](/wiki/Double-decker_bus) are an internationally recognised trademark of London transport along with [black cabs](/wiki/Hackney_carriage) and the Tube.<ref name=london\_132>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=london\_133>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

London has a modern tram network, known as [Tramlink](/wiki/Tramlink), centred on [Croydon](/wiki/Croydon) in [South London](/wiki/South_London). The network has 39 stops and four routes, and carried 28 million people in 2013.<ref name=Trams>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Since June 2008 [Transport for London](/wiki/Transport_for_London) has completely owned Tramlink, and it plans to spend £54m by 2015 on maintenance, renewals, upgrades and capacity enhancements.<ref name=london\_134>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

### Cable car[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]

London's first and only cable car, known as the [Emirates Air Line](/wiki/Emirates_Air_Line_(cable_car)), opened in June 2012. Crossing the [River Thames](/wiki/River_Thames), linking [Greenwich Peninsula](/wiki/Greenwich_Peninsula) and the [Royal Docks](/wiki/Royal_Docks) in the east of the city, the cable car is integrated with London's Oyster Card ticketing system, although special fares are charged. Costing £60 million to build, it carries over 3,500 passengers every day, although this is very much lower than its capacity. Similar to the [Santander Cycles](/wiki/Santander_Cycles) bike hire scheme, the cable car is sponsored in a 10-year deal by the airline [Emirates](/wiki/Emirates_(airline)).

### Cycling[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=37)]

[thumb|Santander Cycle Hire near Victoria in Central London](/wiki/File:Belgrave_Road,_Victoria,_London_-_Boris_Bikes_-_Santander_Cycles_by_Elliott_Brown.jpg) [Cycling](/wiki/Cycling_in_London) is an increasingly popular way to get around London. The launch of [a cycle hire scheme](/wiki/Santander_Cycles) in July 2010 has been successful and generally well received. The [London Cycling Campaign](/wiki/London_Cycling_Campaign) lobbies for better provision.[[162]](#cite_note-166)

### Port and river boats[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=38)]

From being the largest port in the world, the [Port of London](/wiki/Port_of_London) is now only the second-largest in the United Kingdom, handling 45 million tonnes of cargo each year.<ref name=handling>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Most of this actually passes through the [Port of Tilbury](/wiki/Port_of_Tilbury), outside the boundary of Greater London.

London has frequent river boat services on the Thames known as [Thames Clippers](/wiki/Thames_Clippers). These run up to every 20 minutes between [Embankment Pier](/wiki/Embankment_Pier) and [North Greenwich Pier](/wiki/North_Greenwich_Pier). The [Woolwich Ferry](/wiki/Woolwich_Ferry), with 2.5 million passengers every year,[[163]](#cite_note-167) is a frequent service linking the [North](/wiki/North_Circular_Road) and [South Circular](/wiki/South_Circular_Road,_London) Roads. Other operators run both commuter and tourist boat services in London.

### Roads[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=39)]

[thumb|right|The](/wiki/File:Rush_hour_on_the_A102_-_geograph.org.uk_-_205323.jpg) [A102](/wiki/A102_road), near [Greenwich](/wiki/Greenwich). This was one of the few routes proposed in the [Ringways Plan](/wiki/London_Ringways) within [Inner London](/wiki/Inner_London) to be built. Although the majority of journeys involving central London are made by public transport, car travel is common in the suburbs. The [inner ring road](/wiki/London_Inner_Ring_Road) (around the city centre), the [North](/wiki/A406_road) and [South Circular](/wiki/A205_road) roads (in the suburbs), and the outer orbital [motorway](/wiki/Motorway) (the [M25](/wiki/M25_motorway), outside the built-up area) encircle the city and are intersected by a number of busy radial routes—but very few motorways penetrate into [inner London](/wiki/Inner_London). A plan for a comprehensive network of motorways throughout the city (the [Ringways Plan](/wiki/London_Ringways)) was prepared in the 1960s but was mostly cancelled in the early 1970s. The M25 is the longest ring-road motorway in the world at [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) long.[[164]](#cite_note-168)<ref name=london\_143>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The [A1](/wiki/A1_road_(Great_Britain)) and [M1](/wiki/M1_motorway) connect London to [Leeds](/wiki/Leeds), and [Newcastle](/wiki/Newcastle_upon_Tyne) and [Edinburgh](/wiki/Edinburgh).

London is notorious for its traffic congestion, with the M25 motorway the busiest stretch in the country. The average speed of a car in the rush hour is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).<ref name=london\_147>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>

In 2003, a [congestion charge](/wiki/London_congestion_charge) was introduced to reduce traffic volumes in the city centre. With a few exceptions, motorists are required to pay £10 per day to drive within a defined zone encompassing much of central London.[[165]](#cite_note-169)[[166]](#cite_note-170) Motorists who are residents of the defined zone can buy a greatly reduced season pass.[[167]](#cite_note-171) London government initially expected the Congestion Charge Zone to increase daily peak period Underground and bus users by 20,000 people, reduce road traffic by 10 to 15 per cent, increase traffic speeds by 10 to 15 per cent, and reduce queues by 20 to 30 per cent.[[168]](#cite_note-172) Over the course of several years, the average number of cars entering the centre of London on a weekday was reduced from 195,000 to 125,000 cars – a 35-per-cent reduction of vehicles driven per day.[[169]](#cite_note-173)

## Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=40)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

### Tertiary education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=41)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Strand102.jpg)[King's College London](/wiki/King's_College_London), established by Royal Charter having been founded by [King George IV](/wiki/King_George_IV) and the [Duke of Wellington](/wiki/Duke_of_Wellington) in 1829, is one of the founding colleges of the [University of London](/wiki/University_of_London). [thumb|The Wilkins Building at](/wiki/File:Wilkins_Building_2,_UCL,_London_-_Diliff.jpg) [University College London](/wiki/University_College_London) London is a major global centre of higher education teaching and research and its 43 universities form the largest concentration of higher education institutes in Europe.[[30]](#cite_note-33) According to the QS World University Rankings 2015/16, London has the greatest concentration of top class universities in the world[[170]](#cite_note-174)[[171]](#cite_note-175) and the international student population around 110,000 which is also more than any other city in the world.[[172]](#cite_note-176) A 2014 [PricewaterhouseCoopers](/wiki/PricewaterhouseCoopers) report termed London as the global capital of higher education[[173]](#cite_note-177) A number of world-leading education institutions are based in London. In the 2014/15 [*QS World University Rankings*](/wiki/QS_World_University_Rankings), [Imperial College London](/wiki/Imperial_College_London) is ranked joint 2nd in the world (alongside [The University of Cambridge](/wiki/The_University_of_Cambridge)), [University College London](/wiki/University_College_London) (UCL) is ranked 5th, and [King's College London](/wiki/King's_College_London) (KCL) is ranked 16th.[[174]](#cite_note-178) The [London School of Economics](/wiki/London_School_of_Economics) has been described as the world's leading social science institution for both teaching and research.<ref name=london\_156>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news) [Template:Subscription required](/wiki/Template:Subscription_required)</ref> The [London Business School](/wiki/London_Business_School) is considered one of the world's leading business schools and in 2015 its MBA programme was ranked second best in the world by the [*Financial Times*](/wiki/Financial_Times).[[175]](#cite_note-179) With 120,000 students in London,[[176]](#cite_note-180) the federal [University of London](/wiki/University_of_London) is the largest contact teaching university in the UK.[[177]](#cite_note-181) It includes four large multi-faculty universities – [King's College London](/wiki/King's_College_London), [Queen Mary](/wiki/Queen_Mary,_University_of_London), [Royal Holloway](/wiki/Royal_Holloway) and [UCL](/wiki/University_College_London) – and a number of smaller and more specialised institutions including [Birkbeck](/wiki/Birkbeck_College), the [Courtauld Institute of Art](/wiki/Courtauld_Institute_of_Art), [Goldsmiths](/wiki/Goldsmiths,_University_of_London), [Guildhall School of Music and Drama](/wiki/Guildhall_School_of_Music_and_Drama), the [Institute of Education](/wiki/Institute_of_Education), the [London Business School](/wiki/London_Business_School), the [London School of Economics](/wiki/London_School_of_Economics), the [London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine](/wiki/London_School_of_Hygiene_&_Tropical_Medicine), the [Royal Academy of Music](/wiki/Royal_Academy_of_Music), the [Central School of Speech and Drama](/wiki/Central_School_of_Speech_and_Drama), the [Royal Veterinary College](/wiki/Royal_Veterinary_College) and the [School of Oriental and African Studies](/wiki/School_of_Oriental_and_African_Studies).[[178]](#cite_note-182) Members of the University of London have their own [admissions](/wiki/University_and_college_admission) procedures, and some award their own degrees.

A number of universities in London are outside the University of London system, including [Brunel University](/wiki/Brunel_University), [City University London](/wiki/City_University_London), [Imperial College London](/wiki/Imperial_College_London), [Kingston University](/wiki/Kingston_University), [London Metropolitan University](/wiki/London_Metropolitan_University) (with over 34,000 students, the largest unitary university in London),<ref name=london\_157>[About London Met](http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/library/o90402_3.pdf) London Metropolitan University, August 2008</ref> [University of East London](/wiki/University_of_East_London), [University of West London](/wiki/University_of_West_London), [University of Westminster](/wiki/University_of_Westminster), [London South Bank University](/wiki/London_South_Bank_University), [Middlesex University](/wiki/Middlesex_University), and [University of the Arts London](/wiki/University_of_the_Arts_London) (the largest university of art, design, fashion, communication and the performing arts in Europe).[[179]](#cite_note-183) In addition there are three international universities in London – [Regent's University London](/wiki/Regent's_College), [Richmond, The American International University in London](/wiki/Richmond,_The_American_International_University_in_London) and [Schiller International University](/wiki/Schiller_International_University).

[thumb|The front façade of the](/wiki/File:Royal_College_of_Music_-_April_2007.jpg) [Royal College of Music](/wiki/Royal_College_of_Music) London is home to [five major medical schools](/wiki/United_Hospitals) – [Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry](/wiki/Barts_and_The_London_School_of_Medicine_and_Dentistry) (part of [Queen Mary](/wiki/Queen_Mary,_University_of_London)), [King's College London School of Medicine](/wiki/King's_College_London_School_of_Medicine) (the largest medical school in Europe), [Imperial College School of Medicine](/wiki/Imperial_College_School_of_Medicine), [UCL Medical School](/wiki/UCL_Medical_School) and [St George's, University of London](/wiki/St_George's,_University_of_London) – and has a large number of affiliated teaching hospitals. It is also a major centre for biomedical research, and three of the UK's five [academic health science centres](/wiki/Academic_health_science_centre) are based in the city – [Imperial College Healthcare](/wiki/Imperial_College_Healthcare_NHS_Trust), [King's Health Partners](/wiki/King's_Health_Partners) and [UCL Partners](/wiki/UCL_Partners) (the largest such centre in Europe).[[180]](#cite_note-184) There are a number of business schools in London, including the [London School of Business and Finance](/wiki/London_School_of_Business_and_Finance), [Cass Business School](/wiki/Cass_Business_School) (part of [City University London](/wiki/City_University_London)), [Hult International Business School](/wiki/Hult_International_Business_School), [ESCP Europe](/wiki/ESCP_Europe), [European Business School London](/wiki/European_Business_School_London), [Imperial College Business School](/wiki/Imperial_College_Business_School) and the [London Business School](/wiki/London_Business_School). London is also home to many specialist arts education institutions, including the [Academy of Live and Recorded Arts](/wiki/Academy_of_Live_and_Recorded_Arts), [Central School of Ballet](/wiki/Central_School_of_Ballet), [LAMDA](/wiki/London_Academy_of_Music_and_Dramatic_Art), [London College of Contemporary Arts (LCCA)](/wiki/London_College_of_Contemporary_Arts_(LCCA)), [London Contemporary Dance School](/wiki/London_Contemporary_Dance_School), [National Centre for Circus Arts](/wiki/The_Circus_Space), [RADA](/wiki/Royal_Academy_of_Dramatic_Art), [Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance](/wiki/Rambert_Dance_Company), the [Royal College of Art](/wiki/Royal_College_of_Art), the [Royal College of Music](/wiki/Royal_College_of_Music) and [Trinity Laban](/wiki/Trinity_Laban).

### Primary and secondary education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=42)]

The majority of primary and secondary schools and further-education colleges in London are controlled by the [London boroughs](/wiki/London_boroughs) or otherwise state-funded; leading examples include [City and Islington College](/wiki/City_and_Islington_College), [Ealing, Hammersmith and West London College](/wiki/Ealing,_Hammersmith_and_West_London_College), [Leyton Sixth Form College](/wiki/Leyton_Sixth_Form_College), [Tower Hamlets College](/wiki/Tower_Hamlets_College) and [Bethnal Green Academy](/wiki/Bethnal_Green_Academy). There are also a number of private schools and colleges in London, some old and famous, such as [City of London School](/wiki/City_of_London_School), [Harrow](/wiki/Harrow_School), [St Paul's School](/wiki/St_Paul's_School_(London)), [Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School](/wiki/Haberdashers'_Aske's_Boys'_School), [University College School](/wiki/University_College_School), [The John Lyon School](/wiki/The_John_Lyon_School), [Highgate School](/wiki/Highgate_School) and [Westminster School](/wiki/Westminster_School).

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=43)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

### Leisure and entertainment[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=44)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Open_Happiness_Picadilly_Circus_Blue-Pink_Hour_120917-1126-jikatu.jpg)[Piccadilly Circus](/wiki/Piccadilly_Circus) Leisure is major part of London economy with a 2003 report contributing a quarter of entire UK leisure economy to London.[[181]](#cite_note-185) Globally, the city is amongst the big four [fashion capital](/wiki/Fashion_capital) of the world and according to official statistics London is the world's third busiest film production centre, presents more live comedy than any other city[[182]](#cite_note-186) and has the biggest theatre audience of any city in the world.[[183]](#cite_note-187) Within the [City of Westminster](/wiki/City_of_Westminster) in London the entertainment district of the [West End](/wiki/West_End_of_London) has its focus around [Leicester Square](/wiki/Leicester_Square), where London and world film [premieres](/wiki/Premiere) are held, and [Piccadilly Circus](/wiki/Piccadilly_Circus), with its giant electronic advertisements.[[184]](#cite_note-188) London's [theatre](/wiki/West_End_theatre) district is here, as are many cinemas, bars, clubs and restaurants, including the city's [Chinatown](/wiki/Chinatown,_London) district (in [Soho](/wiki/Soho)), and just to the east is [Covent Garden](/wiki/Royal_Opera_House), an area housing speciality shops. The city is the home of [Andrew Lloyd Webber](/wiki/Andrew_Lloyd_Webber), whose musicals have dominated the West End theatre since the late 20th century.[[185]](#cite_note-189) The United Kingdom's [Royal Ballet](/wiki/Royal_Ballet), [English National Ballet](/wiki/English_National_Ballet), [Royal Opera](/wiki/Royal_Opera,_London) and [English National Opera](/wiki/English_National_Opera) are based in London and perform at the [Royal Opera House](/wiki/Royal_Opera_House), the [London Coliseum](/wiki/London_Coliseum), [Sadler's Wells Theatre](/wiki/Sadler's_Wells_Theatre) and the [Royal Albert Hall](/wiki/Royal_Albert_Hall) as well as touring the country.[[186]](#cite_note-190) [thumb|upright|left|](/wiki/File:Harrods_at_Night,_London_-_Nov_2012.jpg)[Harrods](/wiki/Harrods) in [Knightsbridge](/wiki/Knightsbridge) [Islington's](/wiki/Islington) [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) long Upper Street, extending northwards from [Angel](/wiki/Angel,_London), has more bars and restaurants than any other street in the United Kingdom.<ref name=london\_161>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref> Europe's busiest shopping area is [Oxford Street](/wiki/Oxford_Street), a shopping street nearly [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) long, making it the longest shopping street in the United Kingdom. Oxford Street is home to vast numbers of retailers and [department stores](/wiki/Department_stores), including the world-famous [Selfridges](/wiki/Selfridges) [flagship store](/wiki/Flagship_store#Retailing).<ref name=london\_162>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref> [Knightsbridge](/wiki/Knightsbridge), home to the equally renowned [Harrods](/wiki/Harrods) [department store](/wiki/Department_store), lies to the south-west. [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:London,_UK_(August_2014)_-_156.JPG)[Shakespeare's Globe](/wiki/Shakespeare's_Globe) is a modern reconstruction of the Globe Theatre on the south bank of the River Thames London is home to designers [Vivienne Westwood](/wiki/Vivienne_Westwood), [Galliano](/wiki/John_Galliano), [Stella McCartney](/wiki/Stella_McCartney), [Manolo Blahnik](/wiki/Manolo_Blahnik), and [Jimmy Choo](/wiki/Jimmy_Choo) among others; its renowned art and fashion schools make it an international centre of fashion alongside [Paris](/wiki/Paris), [Milan](/wiki/Milan), and [New York City](/wiki/New_York_City). London offers a great variety of cuisine as a result of its ethnically diverse population. Gastronomic centres include the [Bangladeshi](/wiki/Bangladesh) restaurants of [Brick Lane](/wiki/Brick_Lane) and the [Chinese food](/wiki/Chinese_food) restaurants of [Chinatown](/wiki/Chinatown,_London).<ref name=london\_163>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

There is a variety of [annual events](/wiki/List_of_annual_events_in_London), beginning with the relatively new [New Year's Day Parade](/wiki/New_Year's_Day_Parade), fireworks display at the [London Eye](/wiki/London_Eye), the world's second largest [street party](/wiki/Street_party), the [Notting Hill Carnival](/wiki/Notting_Hill_Carnival) is held during the late [August Bank Holiday](/wiki/August_Bank_Holiday) each year. Traditional parades include November's [Lord Mayor's Show](/wiki/Lord_Mayor's_Show), a centuries-old event celebrating the annual appointment of a new [Lord Mayor of the City of London](/wiki/Lord_Mayor_of_the_City_of_London) with a procession along the streets of the City, and June's [Trooping the Colour](/wiki/Trooping_the_Colour), a formal military pageant performed by regiments of the [Commonwealth](/wiki/Commonwealth_of_Nations) and [British](/wiki/British_Army) armies to celebrate the [Queen's Official Birthday](/wiki/Queen's_Official_Birthday).<ref name=london\_164>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

### Literature, film and television[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=45)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|](/wiki/File:John_Keats_(4625082560).jpg)[Keats House](/wiki/Keats_House), where [Keats](/wiki/John_Keats) wrote his [*Ode to a Nightingale*](/wiki/Ode_to_a_Nightingale). The village of [Hampstead](/wiki/Hampstead) has historically been a literary centre in London. London has been the setting for many works of literature. The literary centres of London have traditionally been hilly [Hampstead](/wiki/Hampstead) and (since the early 20th century) [Bloomsbury](/wiki/Bloomsbury). Writers closely associated with the city are the diarist [Samuel Pepys](/wiki/Samuel_Pepys), noted for his eyewitness account of the [Great Fire](/wiki/Great_Fire_of_London), [Charles Dickens](/wiki/Charles_Dickens), whose representation of a foggy, snowy, grimy London of street sweepers and pickpockets has been a major influence on people's vision of early [Victorian](/wiki/Victorian_era) London, and [Virginia Woolf](/wiki/Virginia_Woolf), regarded as one of the foremost [modernist](/wiki/Modernist_literature) literary figures of the 20th century.[[187]](#cite_note-191)[left|thumb|](/wiki/File:Sherlock_Holmes_Museum.jpg)[Sherlock Holmes Museum](/wiki/Sherlock_Holmes_Museum) in [Baker Street](/wiki/Baker_Street), bearing the number 221B The pilgrims in [Geoffrey Chaucer's](/wiki/Geoffrey_Chaucer) late 14th-century [*Canterbury Tales*](/wiki/The_Canterbury_Tales) set out for [Canterbury](/wiki/Canterbury) from London – specifically, from the [Tabard](/wiki/The_Tabard) inn, [Southwark](/wiki/Southwark). [William Shakespeare](/wiki/William_Shakespeare) spent a large part of his life living and working in London; his contemporary [Ben Jonson](/wiki/Ben_Jonson) was also based there, and some of his work—most notably his play [*The Alchemist*](/wiki/The_Alchemist_(play))—was set in the city.[[187]](#cite_note-191) [*A Journal of the Plague Year*](/wiki/A_Journal_of_the_Plague_Year) (1722) by [Daniel Defoe](/wiki/Daniel_Defoe) is a fictionalisation of the events of the 1665 [Great Plague](/wiki/Great_Plague_of_London).[[187]](#cite_note-191) Later important depictions of London from the 19th and early 20th centuries are Dickens' novels, and [Arthur Conan Doyle's](/wiki/Arthur_Conan_Doyle) [Sherlock Holmes](/wiki/Sherlock_Holmes) stories.[[187]](#cite_note-191) Modern writers pervasively influenced by the city include [Peter Ackroyd](/wiki/Peter_Ackroyd), author of a "biography" of London, and [Iain Sinclair](/wiki/Iain_Sinclair), who writes in the genre of [psychogeography](/wiki/Psychogeography).

London has played a significant role in the film industry, and has major studios at [Ealing](/wiki/Ealing_Studios) and a [special effects](/wiki/Special_effect) and [post-production](/wiki/Post-production) community centred in [Soho](/wiki/Soho). [Working Title Films](/wiki/Working_Title_Films) has its headquarters in London.<ref name=london\_165>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> London has been the setting for films including [*Oliver Twist*](/wiki/Oliver_Twist_(1948_film)) (1948), [*Scrooge*](/wiki/Scrooge_(1951_film)) (1951), [*Peter Pan*](/wiki/Peter_Pan_(1953_film)) (1953), [*The 101 Dalmatians*](/wiki/101_Dalmatians_(1996_film)) (1961), [*My Fair Lady*](/wiki/My_Fair_Lady_(film)) (1964), [*Mary Poppins*](/wiki/Mary_Poppins_(film)) (1964), [*Blowup*](/wiki/Blowup) (1966), [*The Long Good Friday*](/wiki/The_Long_Good_Friday) (1980), [*Notting Hill*](/wiki/Notting_Hill_(film)) (1999), [*Love Actually*](/wiki/Love_Actually) (2003), [*V For Vendetta*](/wiki/V_For_Vendetta_(film)) (2005), [*Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber Of Fleet Street*](/wiki/Sweeney_Todd:_The_Demon_Barber_Of_Fleet_Street) (2008) and [*The King's Speech*](/wiki/The_King's_Speech) (2010). Notable actors and filmmakers from London include; [Charlie Chaplin](/wiki/Charlie_Chaplin), [Alfred Hitchcock](/wiki/Alfred_Hitchcock), [Michael Caine](/wiki/Michael_Caine), [Helen Mirren](/wiki/Helen_Mirren), [Gary Oldman](/wiki/Gary_Oldman), [Christopher Nolan](/wiki/Christopher_Nolan), [Jude Law](/wiki/Jude_Law), [Tom Hardy](/wiki/Tom_Hardy), [Keira Knightley](/wiki/Keira_Knightley) and [Daniel Day-Lewis](/wiki/Daniel_Day-Lewis). [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), the [British Academy Film Awards](/wiki/British_Academy_Film_Awards) have taken place at the [Royal Opera House](/wiki/Royal_Opera_House). London is a major centre for television production, with studios including [BBC Television Centre](/wiki/BBC_Television_Centre), [The Fountain Studios](/wiki/The_Fountain_Studios) and [The London Studios](/wiki/The_London_Studios). Many television programmes have been set in London, including the popular television soap opera [*EastEnders*](/wiki/EastEnders), broadcast by the BBC since 1985.

### Museums and art galleries[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=46)]

[thumb|right|The](/wiki/File:British_Museum_entrance.jpg) [British Museum](/wiki/British_Museum) London is [home to many museums](/wiki/List_of_museums_in_London), galleries, and other institutions, many of which are free of admission charges and are major [tourist attractions](/wiki/Tourist_attraction) as well as playing a research role. The first of these to be established was the [British Museum](/wiki/British_Museum) in [Bloomsbury](/wiki/Bloomsbury), in 1753. Originally containing antiquities, natural history specimens and the national library, the museum now has 7 million artefacts from around the globe. In 1824 the [National Gallery](/wiki/National_Gallery) was founded to house the British national collection of Western paintings; this now occupies a prominent position in [Trafalgar Square](/wiki/Trafalgar_Square).

In the latter half of the 19th century the locale of [South Kensington](/wiki/South_Kensington) was developed as "[Albertopolis](/wiki/Albertopolis)", a cultural and scientific quarter. Three major national museums are there: the [Victoria and Albert Museum](/wiki/Victoria_and_Albert_Museum) (for the [applied arts](/wiki/Applied_arts)), the [Natural History Museum](/wiki/Natural_History_Museum,_London) and the [Science Museum](/wiki/London_Science_Museum). The [National Portrait Gallery](/wiki/National_Portrait_Gallery,_London) was founded in 1856 to house depictions of figures from British history; its holdings now comprise the world's most extensive collection of portraits.[[188]](#cite_note-192) The national gallery of British art is at [Tate Britain](/wiki/Tate_Britain), originally established as an annexe of the National Gallery in 1897. The Tate Gallery, as it was formerly known, also became a major centre for modern art; in 2000 this collection moved to [Tate Modern](/wiki/Tate_Modern), a new gallery housed in the former [Bankside Power Station](/wiki/Bankside_Power_Station).

### Music[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=47)]

[thumb|left|The](/wiki/File:Royal_Albert_Hall_Crop,_London_-_Nov_2012.jpg) [Royal Albert Hall](/wiki/Royal_Albert_Hall) hosts concerts and musical events London is one of the major [classical](/wiki/Classical_music) and [popular music](/wiki/Popular_music) capitals of the world and is home to major music corporations, such as [Warner Music Group](/wiki/Warner_Music_Group) as well as countless bands, musicians and industry professionals. The city is also home to many orchestras and concert halls, such as the [Barbican Arts Centre](/wiki/Barbican_Arts_Centre) (principal base of the [London Symphony Orchestra](/wiki/London_Symphony_Orchestra) and the [London Symphony Chorus](/wiki/London_Symphony_Chorus)), [Cadogan Hall](/wiki/Cadogan_Hall) ([Royal Philharmonic Orchestra](/wiki/Royal_Philharmonic_Orchestra)) and the [Royal Albert Hall](/wiki/Royal_Albert_Hall) ([The Proms](/wiki/The_Proms)).[[186]](#cite_note-190) London's two main opera houses are the [Royal Opera House](/wiki/Royal_Opera_House) and the [London Coliseum](/wiki/London_Coliseum).[[186]](#cite_note-190) The UK's largest [pipe organ](/wiki/Pipe_organ) is at the Royal Albert Hall. Other significant instruments are at the cathedrals and major churches. Several [conservatoires](/wiki/Conservatoire) are within the city: [Royal Academy of Music](/wiki/Royal_Academy_of_Music), [Royal College of Music](/wiki/Royal_College_of_Music), [Guildhall School of Music and Drama](/wiki/Guildhall_School_of_Music_and_Drama) and [Trinity Laban](/wiki/Trinity_College_of_Music). [right|thumb|](/wiki/File:Abbey_Rd_Studios.jpg)[Abbey Road Studios](/wiki/Abbey_Road_Studios), 3 [Abbey Road](/wiki/Abbey_Road_(street)), [St John's Wood](/wiki/St_John's_Wood), City of Westminster

London has numerous venues for rock and pop concerts, including the world's busiest arena [the o2 arena](/wiki/The_O2_Arena)[[189]](#cite_note-193) and other large arenas such as [Earls Court](/wiki/Earls_Court_Exhibition_Centre), [Wembley Arena](/wiki/Wembley_Arena), as well as many mid-sized venues, such as [Brixton Academy](/wiki/Brixton_Academy), the [Hammersmith Apollo](/wiki/Hammersmith_Apollo) and the [Shepherd's Bush Empire](/wiki/Shepherd's_Bush_Empire).[[186]](#cite_note-190) Several [music festivals](/wiki/Music_festivals), including the [Wireless Festival](/wiki/Wireless_Festival), South West Four, [Lovebox](/wiki/Lovebox_Festival), and [Hyde Park's](/wiki/Hyde_Park,_London) [British Summer Time](/wiki/British_Summer_Time_(concerts)) are all held in London.[[190]](#cite_note-194) The city is home to the first and original [Hard Rock Cafe](/wiki/Hard_Rock_Cafe) and the [Abbey Road Studios](/wiki/Abbey_Road_Studios) where [The Beatles](/wiki/The_Beatles) recorded many of their hits. In the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, musicians and groups like [Elton John](/wiki/Elton_John), [Pink Floyd](/wiki/Pink_Floyd), [David Bowie](/wiki/David_Bowie), [Queen](/wiki/Queen_(band)), [The Kinks](/wiki/The_Kinks), [The Rolling Stones](/wiki/The_Rolling_Stones), [The Who](/wiki/The_Who), [Eric Clapton](/wiki/Eric_Clapton), [Led Zeppelin](/wiki/Led_Zeppelin), [The Small Faces](/wiki/The_Small_Faces), [Iron Maiden](/wiki/Iron_Maiden), [Fleetwood Mac](/wiki/Fleetwood_Mac), [Elvis Costello](/wiki/Elvis_Costello), [Cat Stevens](/wiki/Cat_Stevens), [The Police](/wiki/The_Police), [The Cure](/wiki/The_Cure), [Madness](/wiki/Madness_(band)), [The Jam](/wiki/The_Jam), [Dusty Springfield](/wiki/Dusty_Springfield), [Phil Collins](/wiki/Phil_Collins), [Rod Stewart](/wiki/Rod_Stewart) and [Sade](/wiki/Sade_(band)), derived their sound from the streets and rhythms vibrating through London.[[191]](#cite_note-195) London was instrumental in the development of [punk music](/wiki/Punk_music),<ref name=london\_172>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> with figures such as the [Sex Pistols](/wiki/Sex_Pistols), [The Clash](/wiki/The_Clash),[[191]](#cite_note-195) and [Vivienne Westwood](/wiki/Vivienne_Westwood) all based in the city. More recent artists to emerge from the London music scene include [George Michael](/wiki/George_Michael), [Kate Bush](/wiki/Kate_Bush), [Seal](/wiki/Seal_(musician)), [Siouxsie and the Banshees](/wiki/Siouxsie_and_the_Banshees), [Bush](/wiki/Bush_(band)), the [Spice Girls](/wiki/Spice_Girls), [Jamiroquai](/wiki/Jamiroquai), [Blur](/wiki/Blur_(band)), [The Prodigy](/wiki/The_Prodigy), [Gorillaz](/wiki/Gorillaz), [Mumford & Sons](/wiki/Mumford_&_Sons), [Coldplay](/wiki/Coldplay), [Amy Winehouse](/wiki/Amy_Winehouse), [Adele](/wiki/Adele), [Ed Sheeran](/wiki/Ed_Sheeran) and [One Direction](/wiki/One_Direction).[[192]](#cite_note-196)[[193]](#cite_note-197)[[194]](#cite_note-198) London is also a centre for urban music. In particular the genres [UK garage](/wiki/UK_garage), [drum and bass](/wiki/Drum_and_bass), [dubstep](/wiki/Dubstep) and [grime](/wiki/Grime_(music)) evolved in the city from the foreign genres of [hip hop](/wiki/Hip_hop) and [reggae](/wiki/Reggae), alongside local [drum and bass](/wiki/Drum_and_bass). Black music station [BBC Radio 1Xtra](/wiki/BBC_Radio_1Xtra) was set up to support the rise of home-grown urban music both in London and in the rest of the UK.

## Notable people[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=48)]

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## Recreation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=49)]

### Parks and open spaces[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=50)]

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The largest parks in the [central area of London](/wiki/Central_London) are three of the eight [Royal Parks](/wiki/Royal_Parks_of_London), namely [Hyde Park](/wiki/Hyde_Park,_London) and its neighbour [Kensington Gardens](/wiki/Kensington_Gardens) in the west, and [Regent's Park](/wiki/Regent's_Park) to the north.<ref name=london\_080>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Hyde Park in particular is popular for [sports](/wiki/London#Sports) and sometimes hosts open-air concerts. Regent's Park contains [London Zoo](/wiki/London_Zoo), the world's oldest scientific zoo, and is near the tourist attraction of [Madame Tussauds](/wiki/Madame_Tussauds) Wax Museum.<ref name=london\_081>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=london\_082>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> [Primrose Hill](/wiki/Primrose_Hill) in the northern part of Regent's Park at [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert)<ref name=mills>Mills, A., *Dictionary of London Place Names*, (2001)</ref> is a popular spot to view the city skyline.

Close to Hyde Park are smaller Royal Parks, [Green Park](/wiki/Green_Park) and [St. James's Park](/wiki/St._James's_Park).<ref name=london\_083>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> A number of large parks lie outside the city centre, including the remaining Royal Parks of [Greenwich Park](/wiki/Greenwich_Park) to the south-east<ref name=london\_170>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> and [Bushy Park](/wiki/Bushy_Park) and [Richmond Park](/wiki/Richmond_Park) (the largest) to the south-west,<ref name=london\_084>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=london\_085>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> [Hampton Court Park](/wiki/Hampton_Court_Park) is also a royal park, but, because it contains a palace, it is administered by the [Historic Royal Palaces](/wiki/Historic_Royal_Palaces), unlike the eight [Royal Parks](/wiki/Royal_Parks_of_London).[[195]](#cite_note-199) Close to Richmond Park is [Kew Gardens](/wiki/Kew_Gardens) which has the world's largest collection of living plants. In 2003, the gardens were put on the [UNESCO](/wiki/United_Nations_Educational,_Scientific_and_Cultural_Organization) list of [World Heritage Sites](/wiki/List_of_World_Heritage_Sites_of_the_United_Kingdom).[[196]](#cite_note-200) There are also numerous parks administered by London's borough Councils, including [Victoria Park](/wiki/Victoria_Park,_London) in the [East End](/wiki/East_End) and [Battersea Park](/wiki/Battersea_Park) in the centre. Some more informal, semi-natural open spaces also exist, including the [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) [Hampstead Heath](/wiki/Hampstead_Heath) of [North London](/wiki/North_London),[[197]](#cite_note-201) and [Epping Forest](/wiki/Epping_Forest), which covers 2,476 hectares (6,118.32 acres)[[198]](#cite_note-202) in the east. Both are controlled by the [City of London Corporation](/wiki/City_of_London_Corporation).[[199]](#cite_note-203)[[200]](#cite_note-204) Hampstead Heath incorporates [Kenwood House](/wiki/Kenwood_House), the former [stately home](/wiki/Stately_home) and a popular location in the summer months where classical musical concerts are held by the lake, attracting thousands of people every weekend to enjoy the music, scenery and fireworks.<ref name=london\_086>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

Epping Forest is a popular venue for various outdoor activities, including mountain biking, walking, horse riding, golf, angling, and orienteering.[[201]](#cite_note-205)

### Walking[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=51)]

[Walking is a popular recreational activity in London](/wiki/Walking_in_London). Areas that provide for walks include [Wimbledon Common](/wiki/Wimbledon_Common), [Epping Forest](/wiki/Epping_Forest), [Hampton Court Park](/wiki/Hampton_Court_Park), [Hampstead Heath](/wiki/Hampstead_Heath), the eight [Royal Parks](/wiki/Royal_Parks), canals and disused railway tracks.[[202]](#cite_note-206) Access to canals and rivers has improved recently, including the creation of the [Thames Path](/wiki/Thames_Path), some [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of which is within [Greater London](/wiki/Greater_London), and The [Wandle Trail](/wiki/Wandle_Trail); this runs [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) through [South London](/wiki/South_London) along the [River Wandle](/wiki/River_Wandle), a [tributary of the River Thames](/wiki/Tributaries_of_the_River_Thames).[[203]](#cite_note-207) Other [long distance paths](/wiki/Long_distance_path), linking green spaces, have also been created, including the [Capital Ring](/wiki/Capital_Ring), the [Green Chain Walk](/wiki/Green_Chain_Walk), [London Outer Orbital Path](/wiki/London_Outer_Orbital_Path) ("Loop"), [Jubilee Walkway](/wiki/Jubilee_Walkway), [Lea Valley Walk](/wiki/Lea_Valley_Walk), and the [Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Walk](/wiki/Diana,_Princess_of_Wales_Memorial_Walk).[[204]](#cite_note-208)

## Sport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=52)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image) London has hosted the [Summer Olympics](/wiki/Summer_Olympic_Games) three times: in [1908](/wiki/1908_Summer_Olympics), [1948](/wiki/1948_Summer_Olympics), and [2012](/wiki/2012_Summer_Olympics).<ref name=london\_173>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=london\_174>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> It was chosen in July 2005 to host the 2012 Olympics and [Paralympics](/wiki/2012_Summer_Paralympics), making it the first city to host the modern Games three times.<ref name=IOC/> The city was also the host of the [British Empire Games](/wiki/Commonwealth_Games) in [1934](/wiki/1934_British_Empire_Games).<ref name=london\_175>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> In 2017 London will host the [World Championships in Athletics](/wiki/2017_World_Championships_in_Athletics).[[205]](#cite_note-209) London's [most popular sport](/wiki/Sport_in_the_United_Kingdom#Popularity) is [football](/wiki/Association_football) and it has fourteen [Football League](/wiki/The_Football_League) clubs, including five in the [Premier League](/wiki/Premier_League): [Arsenal](/wiki/Arsenal_F.C.), [Chelsea](/wiki/Chelsea_F.C.), [Crystal Palace](/wiki/Crystal_Palace_F.C.), [Tottenham Hotspur](/wiki/Tottenham_Hotspur_F.C.), and [West Ham United](/wiki/West_Ham_United_F.C.).<ref name=london\_176>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Other professional teams in London are [Fulham](/wiki/Fulham_F.C.), [Queens Park Rangers](/wiki/Queens_Park_Rangers_F.C.), [Brentford](/wiki/Brentford_F.C.), [Millwall](/wiki/Millwall_F.C.), [Charlton Athletic](/wiki/Charlton_Athletic_F.C.), [AFC Wimbledon](/wiki/AFC_Wimbledon), [Barnet](/wiki/Barnet_F.C.) and [Leyton Orient](/wiki/Leyton_Orient_F.C.). In 2012, Chelsea became the first London club to win the [UEFA Champions League](/wiki/UEFA_Champions_League). Arsenal, Chelsea and Tottenham are the only London clubs to have won the [League](/wiki/List_of_English_football_champions).

From 1924, the original [Wembley Stadium](/wiki/Wembley_Stadium_(1923)) was the home of the [English national football team](/wiki/England_national_football_team). It hosted the [1966 FIFA World Cup Final](/wiki/1966_FIFA_World_Cup_Final), with England defeating West Germany, and served as the venue for the [FA Cup Final](/wiki/FA_Cup_Final) as well as [rugby league's](/wiki/Rugby_league) [Challenge Cup](/wiki/Challenge_Cup) final.<ref name=london\_178>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The new [Wembley Stadium](/wiki/Wembley_Stadium) serves exactly the same purposes and has a capacity of 90,000.[[206]](#cite_note-210) Three [Aviva Premiership](/wiki/English_Premiership_(rugby_union)) rugby union teams are based in London, ([London Irish](/wiki/London_Irish), [Saracens](/wiki/Saracens_F.C.), and [Harlequins](/wiki/Harlequin_F.C.)), although currently only Harlequins and Saracens play their home games within Greater London.<ref name=london\_177>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> [London Scottish](/wiki/London_Scottish_F.C.) and [London Welsh](/wiki/London_Welsh) play in the [RFU Championship](/wiki/RFU_Championship) club and other rugby union clubs in the city include [Richmond F.C.](/wiki/Richmond_F.C.), [Rosslyn Park F.C.](/wiki/Rosslyn_Park_F.C.), [Westcombe Park R.F.C.](/wiki/Westcombe_Park_R.F.C.) and [Blackheath F.C.](/wiki/Blackheath_F.C.). [Twickenham Stadium](/wiki/Twickenham_Stadium) in south-west London is the national [rugby union](/wiki/Rugby_union) stadium, and has a capacity of 82,000 now that the new south stand has been completed.[[207]](#cite_note-211) While [rugby league](/wiki/Rugby_league) is more popular in the north of England, there are two professional rugby league clubs in London – the second tier [Championship One](/wiki/Rugby_League_National_Championship_1) team, the [London Broncos](/wiki/London_Broncos), who play at the [Trailfinders Sports Ground](/wiki/Trailfinders_Sports_Ground) in [West Ealing](/wiki/West_Ealing), and the third tier [League 1](/wiki/League_1_(rugby_league)) team, the [London Skolars](/wiki/London_Skolars) from [Wood Green](/wiki/Wood_Green), [Haringey](/wiki/London_Borough_of_Haringey); in addition, [Hemel Stags](/wiki/Hemel_Stags) from [Hemel Hempstead](/wiki/Hemel_Hempstead) north of London also play in League 1.

One of London's best-known annual sports competitions is the [Wimbledon Tennis Championships](/wiki/Wimbledon_Championships), held at the [All England Club](/wiki/All_England_Lawn_Tennis_and_Croquet_Club) in the south-western suburb of [Wimbledon](/wiki/Wimbledon,_London).<ref name=london\_181>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Played in late June to early July, it is the oldest tennis tournament in the world, and widely considered the most prestigious.[[208]](#cite_note-212)[[209]](#cite_note-213)[[210]](#cite_note-214) London has two [Test cricket](/wiki/Test_cricket) grounds, [Lord's](/wiki/Lord's_Cricket_Ground) (home of [Middlesex C.C.C.](/wiki/Middlesex_County_Cricket_Club)) in [St John's Wood](/wiki/St_John's_Wood)<ref name=london\_179>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> and [the Oval](/wiki/The_Oval) (home of [Surrey C.C.C.](/wiki/Surrey_County_Cricket_Club)) in [Kennington](/wiki/Kennington).<ref name=london\_180>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Lord's has hosted four finals of the [Cricket World Cup](/wiki/Cricket_World_Cup). Other key events are the annual mass-participation [London Marathon](/wiki/London_Marathon), in which some 35,000 runners attempt a [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) course around the city,<ref name=london\_182>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> and the [Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race](/wiki/The_Boat_Race) on the [River Thames](/wiki/River_Thames) between [Putney](/wiki/Putney) and [Mortlake](/wiki/Mortlake).<ref name=london\_183>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=53)]

[Template:Portal](/wiki/Template:Portal)

* [List of museums in London](/wiki/List_of_museums_in_London)
* [List of companies based in London](/wiki/List_of_companies_based_in_London)
* [List of pubs in London](/wiki/List_of_pubs_in_London)
* [List of restaurants in London](/wiki/List_of_restaurants_in_London)
* [List of twin towns and sister cities in the United Kingdom § London](/wiki/List_of_twin_towns_and_sister_cities_in_the_United_Kingdom#London)
* [Outline of England](/wiki/Outline_of_England)
* [Water supply and sanitation in London](/wiki/Water_supply_and_sanitation_in_London)

## Notes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=54)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=55)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

### Bibliography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=56)]

* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=57)]

[Template:Sister project links](/wiki/Template:Sister_project_links)

* [London.gov.uk – Greater London Authority](http://www.london.gov.uk/)
* [VisitLondon.com](http://www.visitlondon.com/) – Official London tourism site
* [Transport for London](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/) (TfL) – city transport authority
* [Museum of London](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/)
* [British Pathé](http://www.britishpathe.com/search/query/london) – Digitalised archive containing hundreds of films of 20th century London
* [London](http://www.british-history.ac.uk/place.aspx?region=1) in [*British History Online*](/wiki/British_History_Online), with links to numerous authoritative online sources
* [Map of Early Modern London](http://mapoflondon.uvic.ca/) – Historical map and encyclopaedia of Shakespeare's London
* [Template:Osmrelation-inline](/wiki/Template:Osmrelation-inline)

[Template:Navboxes](/wiki/Template:Navboxes) [Template:Authority control](/wiki/Template:Authority_control) [Template:Good article](/wiki/Template:Good_article)

[Category:London](/wiki/Category:London) [Category:Articles including recorded pronunciations (UK English)](/wiki/Category:Articles_including_recorded_pronunciations_(UK_English)) [Category:British capitals](/wiki/Category:British_capitals) [Category:Capitals in Europe](/wiki/Category:Capitals_in_Europe) [Category:Populated places established in the 1st century](/wiki/Category:Populated_places_established_in_the_1st_century) [Category:Port cities and towns in England](/wiki/Category:Port_cities_and_towns_in_England) [Category:Staple ports](/wiki/Category:Staple_ports)