



My Drift

Title: London

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The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) is an island country that sits north-west of mainland Europe. It is made up of mainland Great Britain (England, Wales, and Scotland) and the northern part of the island of Ireland (Northern Ireland). It also includes numerous smaller islands.

Although the United Kingdom is a fully independent sovereign state, the four nations that make it up are also countries in their own right.



The United Kingdom is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean, the North Sea, the English Channel, the Celtic Sea, and the Irish Sea. The total area of the United Kingdom is 93,628 square miles with an estimated population of more than 68 million people.



City of London

London is the capital and largest city of England and the United Kingdom, with a population of just under 9 million. It stands on the River Thames in south-east England at the head of a 50-mile estuary down to the North Sea, and has been a major settlement for over two thousand years. The City of London, its ancient core and financial center, was founded by the Romans as Londinium and retains its medieval boundaries. The City of Westminster, to the west of the City of London, has for centuries hosted the national government and parliament. Since the 19th century, the name "London" has also referred to the metropolis around this core, historically split between the counties of Middlesex, Essex, Surrey, Kent, and Hertfordshire, which largely comprises Greater London.



Westminster Bridge, Parliament, and Big Ben



Westminster Abbey

As one of the world's major global cities, London exerts a strong influence on its arts, entertainment, fashion, commerce and finance, education, health care, media, science and technology, tourism, and transport and communications. Its GDP (over €800 billion) makes it the largest urban economy in Europe, and it is one of the major financial centers in the world. With Europe's largest concentration of higher education institutions, it is home to some of the highest-ranked academic institutions in the world—Imperial College London in natural and applied sciences, the London School of Economics in social sciences, and the comprehensive University College London. London is the most visited city in Europe and has the busiest city airport system in the world. The London Underground is the oldest rapid transit system in the world. London is home to the most 5-star hotels of any city in the world.



Imperial College London

London's diverse cultures encompass over 300 languages. The population of Greater London of about 9 million make it Europe's third-most populous city (after Istanbul 15,850,000 and Moscow 12,650,000), accounting for over 13% of the population of the United Kingdom and over 16% of the population of England. The London metropolitan area is the third-most populous in Europe with about 14 million inhabitants.



Bank of England

The City of London vies with New York City's Downtown Manhattan as the financial capital of the world. The London Stock Exchange (shares and bonds), Lloyd's of London (insurance) and the Bank of England are all based in the city. Over 500 banks have offices in the city.

Some More London Attractions



Buckingham Palace and the Changing of the Guard



British Museum



Natural History Museum



"London Bridge Is Falling Down"

Most of us (even me) are familiar with this traditional English nursery rhyme and singing game. Right? Well, did London Bridge actually fall down? No. Despite all of its structural failures, the London Bridge survived for 600 years and never “fell down” as the nursery rhyme implies. When it was finally demolished in 1831, it was only because it was more cost-effective to replace it rather than repair it. Most people outside England think the top picture is the London Bridge – that is the Tower Bridge. The London Bridge picture is below.





Windsor Castle - The Royal Residences

A Royal home and fortress for over 900 years, Windsor Castle, the largest occupied castle in the world, remains a working palace today.



Piccadilly Circus and Trafalgar Square



The Shard (1069 feet – 95 stories)



The London Eye (The Ferris Wheel)



Richmond Park



Kew Gardens



Hyde Park (The largest park in Central London)



Theme Park – Pleasure Beach



Famous Pub (There are over 3500 Pubs in London)



London Heathrow Airport

I have only been to London one time and never left the airport. Me and my boss at the time, Art Lopkoff, were on our way TDY to Zweibrücken, Germany.

London is one of the largest and most interesting cities in the world.

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