



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



Rene Ehrhardt

Day out of town

London, 1 Day

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: Take a boat cruise out from London to Hampton Court Palace in Surrey.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - London

DAY NOTE: Expect to spend the entire day on this adventure. From April to October getting to Henry VIII's stunning stumping grounds from Westminster can take up to 4 hours, so check before embarking. If boating does not interest you, just hop on the train or bus to get to the Tudor Palace, built in 1515 by Cardinal Wolsey, for the amazing gardens, the maze, the kitchen (it is like a village in itself), historical tours, and many and ever changing activities.

If you need more space or the kids need a good run around nearby Bushy Park is the place. Stag deer roam the park freely for some captivating scenery.



Hampton Court Palace

Grandeur & Topiary Maze



Bushy Park

Famed for its tree-lined vistas

Day 1 - London

QUICK NOTE

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contact:
tel: 0870/752-7777
www.hrp.org.uk

location:
Hampton Court Road
East Molesey KT8 2EU

hours:
Gardens year-round daily
7am-dusk (no later than 9pm).
Cloisters, courtyards, state
apartments, great kitchen,
cellars, and Hampton Court
exhibition Mar-Oct daily
10am-6pm; Nov-Feb daily
10am-4:30pm

1 Hampton Court Palace

DESCRIPTION: The 16th-century palace of Cardinal Wolsey can teach us a lesson: Don't try to outdo your boss, particularly if he happens to be Henry VIII. The rich cardinal did just that, and he eventually lost his fortune, power, and prestige, and ended up giving his lavish palace to the Tudor monarch. Henry took over, even outdoing the Wolsey embellishments. The Tudor additions included the Anne Boleyn gateway, with its 16th-century astronomical clock that even tells the time of high tide at London Bridge. From Clock Court, you can see one of Henry's major contributions, the aptly named Great Hall, with its hammer-beam ceiling. Also added by Henry were the tiltyard (where jousting competitions were held), a tennis court, and a kitchen. Although the palace enjoyed prestige and pomp in Elizabethan days, it owes much of its present look to William and Mary -- or rather to Sir Christopher Wren, who designed and had built the Northern or Lion Gates, intended to be the main entrance to the new parts of the palace. The fine wrought-iron screen at the south end of the south gardens was made by Jean Tijou around 1694 for William and Mary. You can parade through the apartments today, filled as they were with porcelain, furniture, paintings, and tapestries. The King's Dressing Room is graced with some of the best art, mainly paintings by old masters on loan from Queen Elizabeth II. Finally, be sure to inspect the royal chapel (Wolsey wouldn't recognize it). To confound yourself totally, you may want to get lost in the serpentine shrubbery maze in the garden, also the work of Wren. More and more attention is now focused on improving and upgrading the famous gardens here -- the formal gardens are among the last surviving examples of garden methods and designs from several important periods of history. The 24-hectare (60-acre) gardens -- including the Great Vine, King's Privy Garden, Great Fountain Gardens, Tudor and Elizabethan Knot Gardens, Board Walk, Tiltyard, and Wilderness -- are open daily year-round from 7am until dusk (but not later than 9pm) and, except for the Privy Garden, can be visited free. A garden cafe and restaurant are located in the Tiltyard Gardens. Hampton Court, on the north side of the Thames and 21km (13 miles) west of London, is easily accessible. Frequent trains run from Waterloo Station (Network Southeast) to **Hampton Court Station** (tel. **0845/748-4950**). Once at the station, buses



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will take you the rest of the way to the palace. If you're driving from London, take the A308 to the junction with the A309 on the north side of Kingston Bridge over the Thames. © Frommer's

contact:

tel: +44 20 8979 1586
[http://www.royalparks.gov.uk/
Bushy-Park.aspx](http://www.royalparks.gov.uk/Bushy-Park.aspx)

location:

The Stockyard, Hampton
Court Road
London London TW12 2EJ

2 Bushy Park

DESCRIPTION: Bushy Park covers some 445 hectares (1,100 acres) of historic deer park. It was originally enclosed from ploughed farmland into three separate parks by Cardinal Wolsey and Henry VIII between 1500 and 1537. Still teeming with deer as in Henry's day, wander through this beautiful park, past Leg of Mutton Pond, Heron Pond and the Diana Fountain for a tranquil break. © NileGuide



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London Snapshot

Local Info

Often quoted yet eloquently perfect, Dr. Samuel Johnson once said, "When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life; for there is in London all that life can afford". Whether in town for a weekend or a few months, London and its diversity is sure to amuse, entertain and enlighten. London is a city of numerous neighborhoods or villages, each with its own flavor and attractions. London has defied fires, plagues, wars and more to become a truly modern metropolis.

Beyond the streets of Westminster where iconic Big Ben shines over the Houses of Parliament and the River Thames lies a city begging to be explored. Most of the major tourist attractions can be accessed by foot although traveling via Tube, red double decker bus or black cab equally adds to the atmosphere.

Royal enthusiasts will bee-line for Buckingham Palace and catch a glimpse of the Changing of the Guard or walk the aisle Princess Diana did on her wedding day at St. Paul's Cathedral. Exploring Kensington Palace and the Tower of London provide an experience into the life of former English monarchs.

London boasts over 300 museums with many offering free admission. From the must see Egyptian mummies and Rosetta Stone at the British Museum to the Rembrandt's and Monet's in the National Gallery, famous works and artifacts come alive from our history lessons. Marvel at masterpieces at the quiet British Library then navigate the Tate Modern's Turbine Hall. And even if dinosaurs and Darwin are not of interest, at least skip by the Natural History Museum and check out one of the most impressive buildings in London.

No matter the weather, Londoners adore and fill their green spaces such as centrally located Hyde Park and Regent's Park. Just outside of the city limits, yet easily reached, lies the Royal Botanical Gardens of Kew, one of the world's most captivating gardens. When it is damp or the grey skies become too much, then stop for a pint in a pub or a cup of tea in... well, anywhere!

And let us not forget that London is also a shopper's paradise. Roaming the food halls of Harrod's or bartering for bargains in many of the city's markets is part of London's charm. Quintessentially British and perfect for snatching up luxurious fashion and unique souvenirs are found in shops along the streets of Regent & Oxford such as Liberty and Selfridges or in Covent Garden area.

So, put on those walking shoes, grab an umbrella and prepare to be dazzled by the city of London.

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Fun Facts

1. Interesting Fact: Big Ben is actually the nickname of the Great Bell located inside the St. Stephen's Clock Tower not the tower or clock itself as commonly thought.

2. Curious Fact: The world's smallest police station is located in the southwest corner of Trafalgar Square, carved out of the base of a lamp post circa 1930. Today the station has sadly been converted into a cleaning storage cupboard.

3. Fun Fact: London was originally named Londinium and began as a small colony just about where London Bridge sits around 43AD.

4. Cool Fact: London's Tube stations sheltered Londoners from the Blitz during

WWII, one night a record 177,500 were counted sleeping in the underground transport system.

5. Odd Fact: The Monument was erected to commemorate The Great Fire of 1666 and is 202 feet tall, the same distance to the start of the fire on Pudding Lane.

6. Random Fact: Tower Bridge is often mistakenly called London Bridge and it the only draw bridge over the River Thames.

7. Bizarre Fact: From the 15th to the 19th centuries when the Thames River was much wider and slower, it often froze over in winter and Frost Fairs were held on the ice.

8. Freaky Fact: A sign on the traffic island marks the Tyburn Tree at the intersection of Marble Arch and Edgeware Road where between 40,000 and 60,000 people were executed from 1196 to 1783.

Weird Fact: Covent Garden should be called Convent Garden named after the Westminster Convent garden, it was misspelled.

10. Quirky Fact: Only two of the 260 Tube stations use all five vowels in their name: Mansion House and South Ealing.

11. Funky Fact: Legendary guitarist Jimi Hendrix and composer George Fredic Handel were neighbors, only 200 years apart. They lived in adjacent houses at 23 and 25 Brook Street now a combined unit which houses the Handel House Museum

12. Wacky Fact: Her Majesty the Queen is forbidden from enter the House of Commons in Parliament as she is not a member.

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