



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



Rene Ehrhardt

Scary London

London, 1 Day

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: Discover London's dark history of mysterious foggy evenings, torture chambers, public hangings, rogue surgeons and tales of ghosts haunting the streets.

(Albert Memorial image by Mike Towber)

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - London



The London Bridge Experience

Horror and fun attraction beneath the arches



The London Dungeon

Medieval Horror in the Capital



Tower of London

Beefeaters and Crown Jewels



The Ghost Bus Tours Ltd

Tour London's haunted and sinister spots in a black Routemaster



The Ten Bells

A killer pub



Jack The Ripper's Sinister London Walking Tour

Ghost & Vampire Tours



Hunterian Museum

Discover the history of surgery



Highgate Cemetery

Historic Graveyard



The Viaduct Tavern

Haunted gin palace



The Original London Ghost Walk

Explore London's Shadows

Day 1 - London

QUICK NOTE

contact:

<http://www.thelondonbridgeexperience.com>

location:

2-4 Tooley Street
London England-London SE1
2PF

1

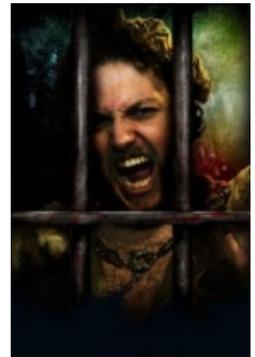
The London Bridge Experience

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Go in a group for the best fun. Not suitable for young children. See website for times and ticketing details and buy tickets online.

DESCRIPTION: Ignore, if you can, the crass antics of the touts outside with their guillotine, severed heads, blood-soaked bandages etc. Although this new kid on the chopping block - voted best scary attraction in the UK two years running - is very much a London Dungeon lookalike, in our opinion it's a more rounded and possibly (?) less gross attraction than its neighbour. OK, we were chased by a nutcase intent on ripping out our lungs and eating our eyeballs, but before that we were treated to tall tales, special effects and a good helping of humour by well-informed costumed guides and holograms of characters from the past. So, as well as being scared half to death, you can learn about the history of the bridges, "experience" the fires that destroyed the most famous London Bridge and find out, among other things how the rhyme 'London Bridge is Falling Down' came about.

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viator

contact:

tel: 020/7403-7221
www.thedungeons.com

location:

28-34 Tooley St., SE1
London SE1 2SZ

hours:

Nov 1-Mar 18 daily
10:30am-5pm; Mar 19-Apr 3
daily 9:30am-5:30pm; Apr 4-
May 27 daily 10am-5pm; May
28-Oct daily 10am-7:30pm

2

The London Dungeon

DESCRIPTION: This ghoulish place was designed to chill the blood while reproducing the conditions of the Middle Ages. Set under the arches of London Bridge Station, the dungeon is a series of tableaux more grisly than those at Madame Tussaud's. The rumble of trains overhead adds to the atmosphere, and tolling bells bring a constant note of melancholy; dripping water and caged rats make for even more atmosphere. Naturally, it offers a burning at the stake, as well as a torture chamber with racking, branding, and fingernail extraction, and a spine-chilling "Jack the Ripper Experience." The special effects were originally conceived for major film and TV productions. They've recently added a new show called "Judgment Day." You're sentenced to death (by actors, of course) and taken on a boat ride to meet your fate. If you survive, a Pizza Hut is on-site, and a souvenir shop sells certificates that testify you made it through the works. © Frommer's



contact:

tel: 0870/756-7070
http://www.tower-of-london.org.uk

location:

Off Tower Bridge Approach
London EC3N4AB

hours:

Mar-Oct Tues-Sat
9am-5:30pm, Sun-Mon
10am-5:30pm; Nov-Feb Tues-Sat
9am-4:30pm, Sun-Mon
10am-4:30pm

3 Tower of London

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Take a guided tour with a Yeoman Warder, included in the price of the ticket

DESCRIPTION: This ancient fortress continues to pack in the crowds with its macabre associations with the legendary figures imprisoned and/or executed here. There are more spooks here per square foot than in any other building in the whole of haunted Britain. Headless bodies, bodiless heads, phantom soldiers, icy blasts, clanking chains -- you name them, the Tower's got them. Centuries after the last head rolled on Tower Hill, a shivery atmosphere of impending doom still lingers over the Tower's mighty walls. Plan on spending a lot of time here. The Tower is actually an intricately patterned compound of structures built through the ages for varying purposes, mostly as expressions of royal power. The oldest is the **White Tower**, begun by William the Conqueror in 1078 to keep London's native Saxon population in check. Later rulers added other towers, more walls, and fortified gates, until the buildings became like a small town within a city. Until the reign of James I (beginning in 1603), the Tower was also one of the royal residences. But above all, it was a prison for distinguished captives. Every stone of the Tower tells a story -- usually a gory one. In the **Bloody Tower**, according to Shakespeare, Richard III's henchmen murdered the two little princes (the young sons of his brother, Edward IV). Richard knew his position as king could not be secure as long as his nephews were alive, and there seems no reasonable doubt that the princes were killed on his orders. Attempts have been made by some historians to clear his name, but Richard remains the chief suspect, and his deed caused him to lose the "hearts of the people," according to the Chronicles of London at the time. Sir Walter Raleigh spent 13 years in the Bloody Tower before his date with the executioner. On the walls of the **Beauchamp Tower**, you can still read the last messages scratched by despairing prisoners. Through **Traitors' Gate** passed such ill-fated, romantic figures as Robert Devereux, the second Earl of Essex and a favorite of Elizabeth I. A plaque marks the eerie place at **Tower Green** where two wives of Henry VIII, Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard, plus Sir Thomas More, and the 9-day queen, Lady Jane Grey, all lost their lives. The Tower, besides being a royal palace, a fortress, and a prison, was also an armory, a treasury, a menagerie, and, in 1675, an astronomical observatory. Reopened in 1999, the White Tower holds the **Armouries**, which date from the reign of Henry VIII, as well as a display of instruments of torture and execution that recall some of the most ghastly moments in the Tower's history. In the Jewel House, you'll find the Tower's greatest attraction, the **Crown Jewels** -- some of the world's most precious stones set into robes, swords, scepters, and crowns. The Imperial State Crown is the most famous crown on earth; made for Victoria in 1837, it's worn today by Queen Elizabeth II when she opens Parliament. Studded with some 3,000 jewels (principally diamonds), it includes the Black Prince's Ruby, worn by Henry V at Agincourt. The 530-carat Star of Africa, a cut



diamond on the Royal Sceptre with Cross, would make Harry Winston turn over in his grave. You'll have to stand in long lines to catch just a glimpse of the jewels as you and hundreds of others scroll by on moving sidewalks, but the wait is worth it. The presumed prison cell of Sir Thomas More is open to the public. More left this cell in 1535 to face his executioner after he'd fallen out with King Henry VIII over the monarch's desire to divorce Catherine of Aragon, the first of his six wives. More is believed to have lived in the lower part of the Bell Tower, here in this whitewashed cell, during the last 14 months of his life, although some historians doubt this claim. A **palace** inhabited by King Edward I in the late 1200s stands above Traitors' Gate. It's the only surviving medieval palace in Britain. Guides at the palace are dressed in period costumes, and reproductions of furniture and fittings, including Edward's throne, evoke the era, along with burning incense and candles. In 2004 several improvements were made, including the opening of a Visitors Center and the restoration of a 13th-century wharf. To the west of the Tower is the newly created Tower Hill Square, designed by Stanton Williams, with a series of pavilions housing ticketing facilities, a gift shop, and a cafeteria. Oh, yes -- don't forget to look for the ravens. Six of them (plus two spares) are all registered as official Tower residents. According to a legend, the Tower of London will stand as long as those black, ominous birds remain, so to be on the safe side, one of the wings of each raven is clipped. **One-hour guided tours** of the entire compound are given by the Yeoman Warders (also known as "Beefeaters") every half-hour, starting at 9:30am, from the Middle Tower near the main entrance. The last guided walk starts about 3:30pm in summer, 2:30pm in winter -- weather permitting, of course. You can attend the nightly **Ceremony of the Keys**, the ceremonial locking-up of the Tower by the Yeoman Warders. For free tickets, write to the Ceremony of the Keys, Waterloo Block, Tower of London, London EC3N 4AB, and request a specific date, but also list alternate dates. At least 6 weeks' notice is required. Accompany all requests with a stamped, self-addressed envelope (British stamps only) or two International Reply Coupons. With ticket in hand, a Yeoman Warder will admit you at 9:35pm. Frankly, we think it's not worth the trouble you go through to see this rather cheesy ceremony, but we know some who disagree with us. **Tower Tips** -- You can spend the shortest time possible in the Tower's long lines if you buy your ticket at the kiosk at Tower Hill Tube station before emerging above ground. Even so, choose a day other than Sunday -- crowds are at their worst then -- and arrive as early as you can in the morning. © Frommer's

contact:

tel: 0844 567 8666
<http://www.theghostbustours.com/faq.html>

location:

33 New Oxford Street
London WC1A 1BH

4 The Ghost Bus Tours Ltd

DESCRIPTION: An evening tour around London's haunted spaces and cemeteries in the special decked out "fright bus", a black Routemaster double decker bus lead by a cast of sinister actors.

Daily tours leave from a bus stop outside the Grand Hotel on Northumberland, just off of Trafalgar Square. Book ahead in October.



editor

Not for young children.
© NileGuide

contact:
tel: 44 020 7366 1721
<http://www.tenbells.com/>

location:
84 Commercial Street
London E1 6LY

hours:
noon-midnight: M-W,
12pm-1am: Th-Sat

5 The Ten Bells

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Across the street from Spitalfields Market, visit nearby Rosa's for an affordable Thai lunch

DESCRIPTION: The Ten Bells pub is home to history, the infamous Jack the Ripper met a number of his victims prior to their fate. Yet, the only reference to Ripper in the pub are copies of original illustration that line the stairs en route to the toilets. Ten Bells is riding the coattails of the East End's trendy revival, with a DJ often in attendance. Adding to the establishment's ambiance, the bar is overflowing with coffee machines, candlesticks, flowers, not to mention reasonably-priced drinks. © wcities.com



image: E Maury

contact:
<http://www.partner.viator.com/en/6793/tours/London/Jack-the-Ripper-Tour-and-London-Ghost-Walk/d737-3858EE005>

location:
London England-London

Jack The Ripper's Sinister London Walking Tour

DESCRIPTION: Follow the blood-soaked footsteps of murderer Jack the Ripper down narrow, gas-lit alleyways on a walking tour of London that will have you trembling with fear! You'll visit all four murder sites in Whitechapel, accompanied by an expert "Ripperologist" who will provide all the clues to this real-life Victorian Whodunit.

The year is 1888. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle has just published his first Sherlock Holmes story...and in Whitechapel, in London's East End, five women are brutally murdered by the world's first recognized serial killer, Jack the Ripper.

Led by a renowned London Blue Badge guides, you will visit four murder sights, while your "Ripperologist" runs through some of the suspects in this unsolved case that led Scotland Yard to Queen Victoria herself.

After the walking tour you have the option to enjoy a traditional fish and chip supper in one of London's most historic pubs (not included in the tour price). If you decide to partake in this wonderful English tradition, the fish and chips supper costs approximately GBP7.00 to GBP10.00 and is payable locally. © Viator



viator

contact:

tel: +44 (0)20 7869 6560
fax: +44 (0)20 7869 6564
<http://www.rcseng.ac.uk/services/museums>

location:

35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields
London WC2A 3PE

6 Hunterian Museum

DESCRIPTION: Discover almost everything about the history and development of surgery. Located in Holborn, the museum is found in the Museum Mile district. It is predominantly made up of the collection of John Hunter, the 18th century surgeon and anatomist. The eight galleries explore almost everything to do with the history of surgery including the 'Story of Surgical Instruments,' which explores the design, manufacture and development of surgical instruments in the medical and dental professions. The museum is successful in providing a deep, detailed insight into the world of surgery. Make use of the free guided tours every Wednesday at 1p. Admission is free. © wcities.com



image by twistyfoldy/flickr

contact:

tel: 020/8340-1834
<http://highgate-cemetery.org>

location:

Swain's Lane
Highgate N6 6PJ

hours:

Western Cemetery, Mar-Oct guided tours only Mon-Fri at 2pm, Sat-Sun hourly 11am-4pm; Nov-Feb, tours Sat-Sun hourly 11am-3pm. Eastern Cemetery, Apr-Oct Mon-Fri 10am-4:30pm, Sat-Sun 11am-4:30pm; Nov-Mar Mon-Fri 10am-3:30pm, Sat-Sun 11am-3:30pm

7 Highgate Cemetery

DESCRIPTION: A stone's throw east of Hampstead Heath, Highgate Village has a number of 16th- and 17th-century mansions and small cottages, lining three sides of the now-pondless Pond Square. Its most outstanding feature, however, is this beautiful cemetery, laid out around a huge 300-year-old cedar tree and laced with serpentine pathways. The cemetery was so popular and fashionable in the Victorian era that it was extended on the other side of Swain's Lane in 1857. The most famous grave is that of Karl Marx, who died in Hampstead in 1883; his grave, marked by a gargantuan bust, is in the eastern cemetery. In the old western cemetery -- accessible only by guided tour, given hourly in summer -- are scientist Michael Faraday and poet Christina Rossetti. © Frommer's



wcities

contact:

tel: 020 7600 1863
<http://www.fullers.co.uk/rte.asp>

location:

126 Newgate St
London EC1A 7

hours:

11-11 M-F, closed Sat/Sun

8 The Viaduct Tavern

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Worth a look even you don't have time to stop for a pint

DESCRIPTION: Historic gin palace pub built on a the former site of a prison with former cells in the cellar. Legend says it's one of London's most haunted spots. Mostly a drinking only pub serving the local professionals. © NileGuide



editor

contact:

tel: +44 20 8530 8443
http://www.london-ghost-tour.com

location:

Bank Underground Station
London EC3V 3LA



The Original London Ghost Walk

DESCRIPTION: This is one of the most popular walking tours of London. You are led around the city by an author whose books include "Walking Haunted London" and "Walking Haunted Britain and Ireland", and who is a member of the Magic Circle. The walk includes the recreation of many psychic phenomena such as spirit writing, ESP and poltergeist activity. This, linked with Richard Jones's excellent story telling ability, makes it an experience never to be forgotten. This walk will take place whatever the weather - the worse the better!! Not for the faint hearted! A Jack the Ripper walk is also available. - Caroline Collard © wcities.com



photo courtesy of The Original London Ghost Walk

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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