

Walking Tour of Westminster



CITY OF WESTMINSTER TOUR



NORTH

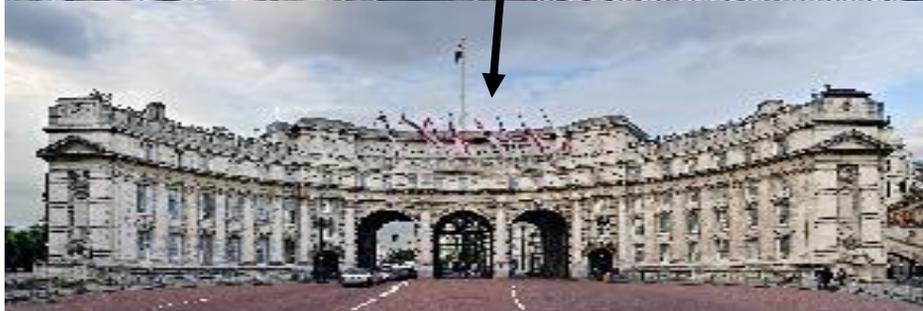


London walking tour questions

Throughout this tour, there will be quiz questions which are included to help you interact with the students during the walking tour. It will also link the excursion back to the lesson. Make sure you try to elicit the answers, with students guessing the answers, before you tell them. Try to get all students involved. There could even be a winner at the end of the walking tour for the student, or group of students, who answered most questions correctly.

Students may not have covered all questions during the lessons. Most are likely to have covered the questions in bold, but they can guess the answers to the other questions too.

1. Trafalgar Square



1. Trafalgar Square

- Trafalgar Square was built to remember Admiral Horatio Nelson. He died in 1805, fighting the Spanish at Cape Trafalgar in Southern Spain.
- John Nash designed this square in the 1820s. Work started in 1829, but sadly, Nash died before the work finished. The building work finished in the 1840s.
- In the centre of the square, you can see Nelson's column. It was built in 1842, and the four lions in 1867. The column is 56 metres high.
- As well as the Statue of Nelson, there are other statues of soldiers and one of King George 4th on a horse.
- There are lots of important buildings near Trafalgar square, for example the National Gallery, South Africa House and Canada House.
- People think that the three domes on the National Gallery look like the salt, pepper and mustard set that you have on the table when you eat dinner!

(To continue your tour, go to Whitehall, the wide road directly in front of you, behind Nelsons Column. To reach the road, cross the square. As you make your way to Point 2, you will pass Admiralty Arch. This archway was built in 1911 and in the past, it was used as the offices and homes of important military officers Point 2 is on the corner of Whitehall.)

London walking tour questions

Trafalgar Square

- **How old is Trafalgar Square? (170 years old)**
- **Why was Trafalgar Square built? (To remember Horatio Nelson)**
- **Who was Horatio Nelson? (An officer in the Royal Navy)**
- **When did Nelson die? (1805)**
- **What can you see in the centre of Trafalgar Square? (A column with a statue of Nelson on the top, statues of soldiers and four lions)**
- **What building do lots of tourists visit in Trafalgar Square? (The National Gallery)**
- **What did tourists like doing in Trafalgar Square before 2003? (Feeding the pigeons)**

2. The Corner of Whitehall



2. The Corner of Whitehall

- You are now at the corner of Whitehall which is the closest point to modern London.
- All distances in London are measured from the middle of the roundabout. The statue in the middle is of Charles the 1st on a horse. Before this statue, there was a large cross in memory of Edward the 1st's wife, Eleanor. The cross was here for 400 years, until 1647.
- We will now walk along Whitehall, away from Trafalgar Square. This street is one of the most important and famous streets in the country because of the Royal and Government buildings.
- Some of the important buildings in Whitehall are the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Health and the Foreign Office.

(Point 3 is at Horse guards on your right hand side. The Gate should be easy to spot due to the 2 guards on horseback outside the gates.)



3. Horse Guards



(You should now be outside Horse guards. It is just after the statue in the picture to the right.)

- Horse Guards was built in 1745 and the name comes from the Royal guards on horses who guard the Queen.
- Horse Guards is the official entrance to Buckingham Palace and St. James's Palace.
- Horse Guards Parade is famous for the 'Changing of the Guard' ceremony when 12 guards dressed in traditional uniform arrive on horses. *(This ceremony is at 11am Mon to Sat and at 10am on Sun.)*
- You can walk through the archway and see the parade ground.

(To continue, carry on along Whitehall until you reach the turning to the right which leads to Point 4. This entrance to Downing Street is Point 4.)

3. Horse Guards



London walking tour questions

Horse Guards Parade

- **Which two buildings can you enter from The Horse Guards Parade? (Buckingham Palace and St. James's Palace)**
- **Why is Horse Guards Parade famous? (For the Changing of the Guard ceremonies)**
- **What happens during the Changing of the Guard ceremony? (Guards in traditional uniform arrive at the Parade Ground on horses and take the place of other guards)**
- **How can you get to the Parade Ground? (Walk through the archway)**

4. Downing Street/ London Eye/ Cenotaph Memorial



- No.10 Downing Street is home to the Prime Minister, and No.11 to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who is responsible for money and the economy

- George Downing bought the land in 1680 and built a street of houses here. Downing died 4 years after buying the land, and in 1732, King George 2nd gave one of the houses to the Prime minister, Sir Robert Walpole. Walpole said he didn't want the house as a present, and instead suggested that it should be the home of all future prime ministers.

- Number 10 was open to the public for 250 years until Margaret Thatcher built walls and gates in 1989 for extra security. In 1991, the IRA put 3 bombs in Downing Street but no one was hurt. Today, there is always at least one policeman at the door to number 10.



4. Downing Street/ London Eye/ Cenotaph Memorial

- Turn with your back to Downing Street, and you can see the London Eye. This huge wheel, was built to celebrate the year 2000, and has brilliant views of the Houses of Parliament and this whole area of London. The London Eye is London's most popular tourist attraction.
- In the middle of Whitehall, a few metres to your right, is the Cenotaph memorial, which is an empty grave to remember the people who died in the two world wars, and in other military action around the world.

(To continue the tour, carry on along Whitehall which will soon become Parliament Street. Point 5 is on the far right-hand corner of Parliament Street.)



London walking tour questions

Downing Street

- **Who lives in number 10 Downing Street? (The Prime Minister)**
- **Who lives in number 11 Downing Street? (The Chancellor of the Exchequer)**
- **What year did it first become the home of the Prime Minister? (1732)**
- **Who is Larry? (The resident cat)**
- **What is Larry's job and title? ('Chief Mouser')**
- **How is the front of 10 Downing Street different from the back? (It is much bigger than it looks- it is actually two connected houses, and the back overlooks Horse Guards Parade)**

London walking tour questions

The London Eye

- **Where is the London Eye? (On the south side of the river Thames)**
- **How tall is the London Eye? (135 metres)**
- **How many people go on the London Eye every year? (3.5 million)**
- **How many capsules are there on the London Eye? (32)**
- **How many people does each capsule on the London Eye carry? (25)**
- **How many people in total can the London Eye carry? (800)**
- **How long is each trip on the London Eye? (30 minutes)**
- **What can you see from the top of the London Eye? (Windsor Castle and 25 miles away)**

5. Big Ben/ Houses of Parliament/ Westminster Abbey



5. Big Ben/ Houses of Parliament/ Westminster Abbey

- Big Ben is not the gothic bell tower in front of you, but it is the name of the bell inside the bell tower. The bell (Big Ben) weighs 13,760kg.
- Nobody knows why the name of the bell is Big Ben, but the name of the clock tower is Elizabeth Tower. The name was given in 2012 in celebration of Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee. Before this, it did not have a name and people just said 'clock tower.'
- The Palace of Westminster/Houses of Parliament is the centre of British Politics. It is a neo-gothic building and has the same architecture as Westminster Abbey. In 1834, there was a big fire and the only part of the building which survived was Westminster Hall. This hall is famous for the trial of Guy Fawkes in 1605. Guy Fawkes planned to blow up the Houses of Parliament. The 5th November is Guy Fawkes Night in the UK when people have bonfires and fireworks.
- Westminster Abbey is famous for Royal ceremonies, for example coronations, weddings and funerals. Every British King or Queen has been crowned here since William the Conqueror on Christmas Day in 1066.

(To continue the tour, you need to walk to your right, along the north side of Parliament Square to Point 6 at the corner of Great St. George's street and Horse Guard road.)



London walking tour questions

The Palace of Westminster

- **What is the official name of the ‘Houses of Parliament’? (The Palace of Westminster)**
- **What exactly is Big Ben? (The bell inside the clock)**
- **What note does Big Ben chime? (E)**
- **What is the name of the tower which is part of the Palace of Westminster? (Elizabeth Tower)**
- **How many panes of glass cover the clock face on the Palace of Westminster clock tower? (300)**
- **How is the glass on the clock face of the Palace of Westminster cleaned? (People abseil down the clock face)**
- **How often is the glass on the clock face of the Palace of Westminster cleaned? (Once every 5 years)**

6. The Corner of Great George Street and Horse Guards Road

- Opposite, you can see St. James's Park and its famous lake.

The next slide gives information about St James's Park.

To continue the tour, go up Horse Guards Road and enter the park at Point 7, just before you reach the lake.



6. The Corner of Great George Street and Horse Guards Road



7. St. James's Park



7. St. James's Park



(Make your way along the left-hand bank of the lake until you reach Point 8 on a small bridge going over the lake.)

- St. James's Park is the oldest royal park in London. King Henry 8th bought it in 1532. In 1603, King James 1st kept exotic birds here. This is the reason for the name of the road that runs to the left hand side of the park: 'Birdcage walk'. You can still see birds such as pelicans, rare ducks and geese on the lake.
- 3 palaces surround the park: Buckingham Palace, Clarence House and St James's Palace. Clarence House is the home of Prince Charles and Camilla, St James's Palace is where many members of the Royal family live, for example Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie.

(Point 8 is on a small bridge over the lake. You can reach it by walking along the left hand of the lake.)



8. St. James's Park Bridge



8. St. James's Park Bridge

- This bridge is one of the best points to photograph Buckingham Palace. The view from this little bridge is beautiful. Look in the opposite direction, and you can get a brilliant view of some white brick buildings and the London Eye.
- Look at Buckingham Palace. It has a flag pole on top of it. When the British Flag (The Union Jack) is flying, the Queen is not home. When the Royal Flag (The Royal Standard) is flying, she is there!

(To continue the tour, cross the bridge and follow the path ahead of you until you reach the exit of St. James's Park, directly opposite Marlborough Road. This will be Point 9.)



London walking tour questions

St James' Park

- **Is St James's Park the oldest or the youngest royal park in London? (The oldest)**
- **What surrounds St James's Park? (3 palaces)**
- **Who bought St James's Park? (King Henry 8th)**
- **What did King James 1st decide to do with St James's Park in 1603? (To keep exotic animals and birds in the park)**
- **What is the name of the road to the left of St James's Park? (The 'Birdcage walk')**
- **Why is the name of the road to the left of St James's Park linked to King James 1st? ('Birdcage walk' refers to the exotic birds King James 1st kept in the park)**
- **What birds can you see on the lake in St James's Park? (Pelicans, rare ducks and geese)**

9. The Mall/ Buckingham Palace

(This is the perfect place to get a closer look at Buckingham palace. To get this view (see below), walk along the mall to the left – this should take no more than a few minutes, but you will have to return to this point to continue the tour.)

- We will now cross the mall and walk to the end of Marlborough road. On your way, you will pass Friary Court on the left and the Queen’s Chapel on the right.

(Point 10 is at the far end of Marlborough Road, turn left and head for the guarded entrance of St. James’s Palace.)

Entrance to Marlborough Road



Exit from Marlborough Road



The view of Buckingham Palace from the Mall.

London walking tour questions

Buckingham Palace

- **Who lives in Buckingham Palace? (The Queen)**
- **How do we know if the Queen is at Buckingham Palace? (The Royal flag is flying. If she's not there, it's the Union Jack)**
- **How many rooms are there in Buckingham Palace? (775)**
- **What is there inside Buckingham Palace? (A cinema, a post office, a swimming pool?)**
- **What is there in the garden of Buckingham Palace? (A lake, a helicopter landing pad and over 350 species of flowers)**
- **How many people are invited to Buckingham Palace every year? (Over 50,000)**
- **Name two people who have been visitors at Buckingham Palace. (Mozart and Gandhi)**

10. St. James's Palace



- St. James's Palace was the most important palace of the British King or Queen for over 300 years. Today, it is still one of the official homes of the Queen, and many members of the Royal Family live here.

- Henry 8th built the palace between 1531 and 1536, but other Kings and Queens made it bigger.
- During the day, guards in uniform are outside the main gate. Sometimes people forget that this is a Royal building until they see the guards!
- The guards, in their bearskin hats, are usually happy to have their photo taken. The bearskin hats are traditionally made from real bear fur. Animal rights organisations, for example PETA, are not happy with this, and lots of people think it is time to make the hats from fake fur.

(To continue your tour, turn away from the palace, cross Clevedon Row and walk up the right hand side of St. James's street.)



11. On the Corner of St. James's Street and King's Street

- St. James's Street is famous for its expensive shops.
- A Royal Crest is on the wall of a lot of the buildings here. This shows that the business is patronized by a member of the royal family. (This means that the Royal Family has shopped here). Today, only 3 of the crests are used: The crests of the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, and the Prince of Wales.
- Look down King's Street. You can see dark red flags hanging from a building on the left. This is the famous auction house, Christie's. People say that 'Christie's' is the best fine art auction house in the world. It has been here since 1766.

(To continue your tour, carry on along St. James's Street until you reach the corner of St. James's Street and Piccadilly.)



12. Piccadilly



12. Piccadilly

- Piccadilly is one of London's best shopping areas. You can see the Ritz 5 star hotel, and the expensive department store, Fortnum and Mason. Fortnum and Mason is the Royal Family's favourite food store.
- Both The Ritz, and Fortnum and Mason, are popular for an expensive afternoon tea!
- In the past, Piccadilly was the London home for world aeroplane companies, and their head offices were here. Today, only a few of the offices are left, and most of the street is for shops.
- Piccadilly is also famous for being one the family favourite board game, Monopoly. It is one of the three yellow cards with Leicester Square and Coventry Street, and costs £280 to buy!

(To continue the tour, cross the road to and carry on along Piccadilly until you come to a large archway with flags on it. This is the Royal academy of Art and Point 13.)



13. The Royal Academy of Art



- The name 'The Royal Academy' is not the name of the building in front of you; the name of the building is Burlington House. 'The Royal Academy' is the name of an independent, privately funded art institute for contemporary artists.

- Look into the courtyard quickly because there is often a new sculpture in the centre.
- The Royal Academy has over 85,000 members; all of them are practising artists and over a million people a year pay to visit the exhibits.
- The general public can submit their work for the summer exhibition. Every year, thousands of people who want to be artists send in their work and hope their work will be chosen for the exhibition. The judging panel is famous for being very severe.



(To continue the tour, carry on along Piccadilly until you reach Piccadilly Circus.)

14. Piccadilly Circus



14. Piccadilly Circus

- This is one of London's most famous landmarks. It is where 5 busy London streets meet.
- The name Piccadilly comes from the name of lace collars called Piccadills, and they were popular in the 17th Century. A famous tailor, called Robert Baker, sold these Piccadills in London.
- The circus was built in the 1819. The first electric advertisement on the buildings here was in 1910. Today, these advertisements are a symbol of Piccadilly circus and London.
- In the centre of the circus, is a statue of Eros. The statue is aluminium. In 1892, when the statue was made, aluminium was a very rare material.

(To continue the tour, go to the right hand side of the road junction. Continue along Coventry Street until you arrive at Leicester Square, which is Point 15.)



London walking tour questions

Piccadilly Circus

- How many London streets meet in Piccadilly Circus? (5)
- When was Piccadilly Circus built? (1819)
- When did the electric advertisements first appear on the buildings in Piccadilly Circus? (1910)
- What statue is in the centre of Piccadilly Circus? (A statue of Eros)
- What is the Eros statue in the centre of Piccadilly Circus made of? (Aluminium)
- Why was the Eros statue in the centre of Piccadilly Circus so unique when it was built in 1892? (Because it was made of aluminium which was a rare material at that time)
- Where does the word Piccadilly come from? (Lace collars called Piccadills were sold by a famous wealthy tailor in 17th Century London)
- What is the English translation of the Latin word Circus? (Circle)

15. Leicester Square

- In the 17th Century, before houses were built here, this area was the front garden of the Earl of Leicester's house (mansion!).
- In the 19th century, Leicester Square became an entertainment area with lots of theatres and hotels. Today, there are 4 cinemas in the square, and this is a popular place for UK film premieres, so lots of famous actors walk on a red carpet here.
- At the centre of square, there are gardens and statues of famous historical figures, for example William Shakespeare, Isaac Newton, and Charlie Chaplin.



(To continue the tour to the final destination, go diagonally across the square to Irving Street. Go along Irving Street until you arrive at Charing Cross Road. Just ahead and to the right is the National Portrait Gallery and Point 16.)

London walking tour questions

Leicester Square

- Where in London is Leicester Square? (Near the West End)
- Why do you sometimes see famous actors in Leicester Square? (Because the majority of film premiers in the UK are held here)
- Why is the area near Leicester Square popular in the evening? (Because there are many restaurants cinemas and theatres in this area)

16. The National Portrait Gallery

- The National Gallery is free to visit, and has about 30,000 portraits. There are lots of different things to see, from French impressionist paintings, to modern photography.
- It was the first portrait gallery in the world when it opened in 1856.
- The three people largely responsible for the founding of the National Portrait Gallery are commemorated with busts over the main entrance.



(To get back to the beginning of the tour, go along Charing Cross Road and you will be back on Trafalgar Square.)



London walking tour questions

The River Thames

- How many bridges are there crossing the river Thames?
(More than 200)
- How many different types of fish live in the River Thames?
(About 110)
- What creatures (not fish) can you find in the River Thames?
(Otters, eels, and river voles)
- What was the original spelling of the river Thames? (Tames)
- Why was the spelling of the river Thames changed?
(Because a Dutch map-maker made a mistake)