

“When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life...”

-Samuel Johnson



Ask The **Experts** 



on **Tourism & Attractions**

Samal

Dear friends, today we will continue to share about London and its attractions.

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“The metropolis affords many amusements which are open to all; it is itself an astonishing and perpetual spectacle to the curious eye; and each taste, each sense, may be gratified by the variety of objects...the pleasure of a town life, the daily round from the tavern to the play, from the play to the coffee house, from the coffee house to the *****are within the reach of every man”. *Edward Gibbon 1796y*

Buckingham Palace - Her Majesty's favourite city residence

Today when I was taking pictures of Buckingham Palace I noticed that Queen's standard was flying from the flagpole above the palace. When the Queen's flag is flying it means that Her Majesty is in residence! Around me, people were excited. They all seemed to be wondering “perhaps we might see Her Majesty today!” Unfortunately, it was late evening and it was unlikely that the Queen would appear and give a wave to the people. Around the place there was heavy security. We asked one of the soldiers when the Changing of the Guard ceremony would take place, which is another one of the exciting and attracting events at the Palace. Reading some information about the history of Buckingham Palace, I discovered quite a few interesting facts from few sources of history.

Buckingham Palace is the official London residence of HM Queen Elizabeth II. Located in the City of

Westminster, the palace is a setting for state occasions and royal hospitality. It has been a rallying point for the British people at times of national rejoicing and crisis. After being developed from a large town house built for the Duke of Buckingham in 1703, the palace eventually became the official royal palace of the British monarch in 1837 and is now the world's largest “working” royal palace. It is also a venue for state occasions and royal entertaining, as well as a base for all Heads of State who are officially visiting London. The palace consists of 19 state rooms, 52 principal bedrooms, 188 staff bedrooms, 92 offices and 78 bathrooms, and the state rooms were made open to the public visitors for the first time in 1993 to raise money for repairing fire damage to Windsor Castle. The Queen's official London home and office is an extremely popular attraction in August and September. John Nash began converting the 18th-century Buckingham House into a palace for George IV in 1826 but was taken off the job in 1831 for overspending his budget. The first monarch to



the palace was Queen Victoria, just after she came to the grand staircase and through the splendour of the State Rooms, but not into the royal family's private apartments.

Other public attractions include the Royal Collection (priceless furnishings, paintings, fittings and other artifacts, which can be viewed at certain times of year), the Queen's Gallery (open all year round) and the daily Changing of the Guard ceremony.

Buckingham Palace receives more than fifty thousand visitors every year. There are many public events held here that locals and travellers flock to;

the banquets and Royal Garden Parties are just a few of the yearly events that many will attend. Buckingham Palace is a state owned property, not a privately owned residence, much like the Windsor Castle. Last year, the Royal Family requested a large sum of money to make Buckingham Palace more available to the public throughout the year, as it is currently only available for public tour 60 days out of the year.

The British government provides over £15 million every year to assist with the upkeep and traditions at Buckingham Palace. This is just one way that the country shows its appreciation of the Palace's importance to the community. If you are thinking about visiting, you should contact early and see what types of exhibitions or royal tours are currently being made available to the public, as these change on a yearly basis.

The Guard Change takes place at 11:30 daily from April until the end of July and on alternate days for the rest of the year, weather permitting. August 5 - September 29 Buckingham Palace operates a timed-ticket system, with admission every 15 minutes throughout the day. Opening hours: 09:30 - last admission 16:15 - every day.

Outside Buckingham Palace is the Queen Victoria Memorial, which celebrates the days of the British Empire. The memorial includes not only the marble statue of Victoria and the glittering figures of Victory, Courage and Constancy, but also the ornamental gates given by the Dominions. These are the Australia Gate, South Africa Gate and Canada Gate.

Buckingham Palace is located between Green Park and St James's Park, with its gardens backing onto Hyde Park Corner. After visiting the Palace and the attractions of the City, you might enjoy a walk around the beautiful landscape and garden of St



James's Park, which lies only 200-250 meters from Buckingham Palace. When you go in to the Park you can relax and feel the soft touch of nature. The gardens have an artificial lake and a small river that runs through Hyde Park which makes this a wonderful area to visit when taking pictures of the flowers and gardens. I also enjoyed the beautiful fragrances of the various flowers and trees. As I stood in the green garden, I took a deep breath to smell the

fresh air and listened to the songs of the different species of birds. I was watching the squirrels run across path they were food from my hand. I also saw a sad, lonely looking swan slowly swimming on the lake, which seemed to have lost her partner...



All the impressions of beauty & romance in St. James's Park make one forget for an instant all about the fuss of our modern world. I left the Park . . . reluctantly but with great admiration for the incredible creations of a wonderful God. *I give Him glory and praise!*

Until next time, I am Sam wishing you happy travels. “We Have Experienced We Recommend!”

samal@theexperts.ca

Ask The **Experts** 



on **Hotels**

Kevin Panko

Thank you Mr Moola, Director of Sales, and the RADISSON EDWARDIAN HEATHROW HOTEL. What a nice reception.

I was impressed the moment I entered into this luxurious hotel through the revolving doors. As we entered into this amazing facility we were greeted by the hotel reception who made us feel right at home. After receiving our key to the room, we found our way through the beautiful corridors of the hotel.



with marble throughout the bathroom, a Kingsized bed, climate control thermostat, wireless internet. And if you forgot your international adapters they have them built into their design, for your convenience.

After a short time we decided to have some dinner. I will say this, the food and service was incredible and our server was awarded with a healthy tip.

As the night wore down and the morning arrived we asked if we could

have our buffet breakfast brought up to us. With no hesitation they promptly brought us eggs, croissants, bangers, salad, juices, fruits, toast, and hash browns.

Wow. . . What a fantastic stay at this incredible Hotel. I Strongly Recommend you book your accommodations here when you plan to visit London.

This Hotel is a luxury that every one can afford!

We Have Experienced . . . We Recommend

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Here is some additional information:

- 459 rooms and suites including 146 deluxe double and twin rooms
- The Presidential Suite has a four poster bed, separate living room, whirl pool and spacious shower room
- Beauty and 'well-being' facilities include a health spa and hairdressers
- Other amenities are a business centre, newsagent and jewellery shop
- Easy access to major motorway network (M25, M40, M4 motorways) and to the Piccadilly underground travelling directly into London
- Nearby attractions include Windsor Castle and Twickenham, the home of English Rugby

Hotel Hoppa transfer service operates between all terminals



1. Wikipedia free encyclopedia; cc2. "Great Britain: eyewitness travel" by Michael Leapman