

## Travel 11 London, peculiar places

Travel 11 gives a selection of places, that are unique for their histories or particularities.

They are situated in different zones of London, then you must use the Tube.



Queen Budicca, version XXI century

There are places in London, that are so historically important, that they are a MUST for a diligent tourist.

In this guide, we have chosen a dozen of them.

### Place no 1

Tube Paddington.

Dr. A. Fleming working rom.

We start where Penicillin has been invented or discovered.

It is in Paddington, at Saint Mary's Hospital, in a small working room, at its 2.st floor. Now it is a museum.

It was in this room, that Dr. Alexander Fleming discover the property of the penicillin in 1928.

In the museum, you can find all the explanations, you wish.



Blue plaque outside St Mary's Hospital

### Place no 2

Tube Marble Arch

Benedictine Convent in Tyburn and the execution place.

From science to religion, both were intended to serve the humanity.

In London's most trafficked place: the corner between Edgware Road-Bayswater Road-Marble Arch. A few meters towards Hyde Park Place, no 8-12, there is the most silent place in London, it is the Benedictine Tyburn Convent.

Nuns spend most of their time in silence.

It is allowed to visit the church of the convent for the public.

A very unique experience.



Tyburn Benedictine Convent

TYBURN, a terrifying name.

At the previous mentioned corner, there is a traffic island.



Plaque on the traffic island Edgware Rt with Bayswater Rt

A small, circular plaque in the paving stones marks the site where the Tyburn Tree gallows stayed, from 1196 to 1783. The neighbors of the zone protested against these barbaric executions.

It was then moved to Old Barley in Newgate.

About 50.000 persons were executed by hanging in the period of 587 years, 1196-1783, it means 1,67 executions per week.

### Place 3

Tube Saint Paul.

The prisons of Newgate, near Old Baily.

In 1783 the execution place was moved from Tyburn near Hyde Park to Newgate, just outside the prisons, in face of St Sepulchre-without-Newgate Church. In the church, there is the execution bell, in a glass shelf.

The prisons of Newgate closed in 1902. They were one of the worst.

You can have the chance to see a piece of these old prisons, in the ground floor of the Viaduct Tavern pub.

If you ask nicely, the staff of the pub will show you some of the cells that survived.



Newgate prison: one prisoner per box

### Place 4

Tube Saint Paul.

Watt's Memorial for persons that made good deeds, at Postman's Park, King Edwards Street.

Watt's memorial is for persons, that made a fantastic deed, often dying, for helping other.

It is a monument where ceramic tiles have the inscription of what happened. Very touching!





Entrance of Watt's Memorial, King Edwards Street.



Watt's Memorial at Postman's Park



An example of the tiles of Watt's Memorial

One consideration to our times behavior:

- victims of terrorism are not recognized for been entitle for rewards. An example:
- the persons that died under a lorry in the terrorism of Berlin in Dec. 2016, have been considered by the German gov. as persons, that died in a road accident.

That gives some afterthoughts, when visiting Watt's Memorial.

### Place 5

Tube Russel Square

The Foundling museum, in 40 Brunswick Square.

Totally contrarily to the common believes, London and the United Kingdom were extremely poor places in the past.

Uk can be seen as an empty board washed by the Atlantic rain.

A confirmation of that:

- why have France and Uk always been confronted?
- they are both Celtic people.
- why do they feel as jealous cousins?
- and who is the poor cousin among the two?

United Kingdom of course is the poor cousin! France is richer, bigger, wormer, with good food and wines.

What has Uk in comparison? Very little. Very, very little, they only have Fish and Chips.

The prove of the above is, that English people, as soon as they afford it, they buy a house on the South of the Channel, especially in France.

In the past, they tried to conquer France.

What is the story of Jeanne D'Arc? It is the story of England that wanted to possess France.

Then, back to the deep poverty of London in 1700, where drunkenness was the favorite pastime (but also today) (every fourth house was a Gin House in 1700), with such a cruelty, that you could be hanged for stealing a spoon. One by-product of a society like this was hordes of unwanted children. Up to thousand children a year were abandoned to the street of London in the early 1700.

A previous soldier, a sailor and then philanthropist, Thomas Coram, made what he could, to save these abandoned children. The greatest majority died, but many survived.

It was the start of the Foundling Museum. One of its governor was the great German composer, Handel.

Now it is a museum, where a lot of literature of the house is shown.



Entrance of the Foundling Museum at Brunswick Square

#### Place 6

Tube to Oxford Circus

The Cholera Pump in Soho, at Broadwich Street.

Once more, a story of the misery of London.

This is not a long time ago, in 1850, when the migration from the countryside to the city started. Industrialization meant an increase of the population density.

Cholera and Tuberculosis are 2 sickness, that were not dangerous before the industrialization. The open life in the countryside was unassailable for Cholera or Tuberculosis.

But... in dense populated area of the cities, every August-September there were an eruption of Cholera.

Even Prince Albert, the husband of Queen Victoria died of Cholera. This tell very much of how infective it was.

The reasons of these eruptions were already scientifically known, but nothing was done against. There was no sickness policy from the government's side.

In the Soho, with a very dense population, without sewerage, the dirty fluid from the sewer moved into the underground, wherefrom the drinking water was pumped up.

This was the cause of the Cholera.

A local doctor, John Snow, decided to brake the pump of the Soho.

He was sure, that the cause of the epidemic was the pump. In fact, few week later the outbreak stopped.



The historic BROAD STREET PUMP

The original pump has disappeared, but a reconstructed is at its place.

### Place 7

Tube to Holland Park

Painter Leighton House in Holland Park Road no 12

We hidden the previous sad stories of the poorness of London, now we open with its richness, or with the few persons that were rich.

One of the rich and influential was absolutely the painter Frederik Leighton, 1830-1896.

Leighton is now an anonymous artist, but during his time, he was at the center of the attention. He was knighted with the right to give the peerage to the heirs. The only person during Queen Victoria.

The great success arrived, when Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's beloved husband, bought a picture from him.

At his time, he was considered the king of the arts. He achieved the maximum of recognitions and prestigious positions.

His house is a mixture of fanaticism, religiosity and extravagance.

A similar house is the house of the Italian poet D'annunzio.in Gardone, at Garda Lake.





Leighton House

### Place 8

Tube to South Kensington.

Michelin House at 81 Fulham Road

It was constructed in 1911 as a tyre depot, with the Michelin Man "Bibendum" as decoration.

Recently it has been refurbished, with at its interior a lot of pictures, painted in tiles, with the story of the very first pilots of the time. It is inspiring to see these tiles.

Amazing beautiful and perfectly done.



Michelin Bibendum House



Restaurants inside



The inspiring picture in the tiles with the story of the first pilots.

### Place 9

Tube to Moorgate

Guildhall and the Colosseum of Roman London.

In the Middle Age, any professional activity was under control by its members. That was for avoiding, that clients could press the price down. It was exactly the same as in modern time with worker's unions:

- same price for the same work!

These Middle Age professions/unions, the Guilds, were organized with strict rules, and with a central office, the Guildhall.

Guildhall is a fantastic building, 1450, one of the most ancient of London. It incarnates the story of the commercial London.



The entrance of Guildhall. Remark the dark circle line on the floor: it was the Colosseum of London in Roman time.

At the place where Guildhall is now, in ancient time, there stayed the Roman amphitheater, i.e. the Colosseum of Londinium. In the basement, it is possible to see it.

### Place 10

Tube to Bank

Leadenhall Market is absolutely one of the most charming place of London. At lunch time, the clerks of the city key for having their lunch in the small shops or restaurants inside Leadenhall.

It is an amusement to see them.

The building Leadenhall is very charming and imposing.



At Leadenhall Market

### Place 11

Tube to Morgate

The remains of the Roman Wall around Londinium/London

The Romans build the city on the North of the Thames, because of the good water resources from the tributary rivers there.

The South was connected with a timber bridge, the first London Bridge.

The city was very small, it is still recognizable today, if you go a walk around. It was built in a semi-circle of about 2 km long, (from the actual London Tower to Blackfriar's bridge) and 1,5 km high, from the Thames to Moorgate. The Wall created a lake outside the port of Moogate (Moogate means the gate to the marshes) . These waters of the marshes were naturally filtered under the soil, under the Wall and it was collected in the countless wells inside the city.

Very clever!

To see the Wall you have to start at London Tower and to follow the directions and the road of London Wall. It is a semi-circular tour.

Visit also the Museum of London, at the same time.





The Roman Wall near London Tower

Place 12

Tube Neasden

The Indian temple of Baps Shri Swaminarayan Mandir

It is a totally new and fantastic temple built in Neasden in 1995.

Very beautiful.

And inside there is a genuine Indian restaurant, probably the best, in London.

Affordable!

# Neasden Temple



The end of travel 11