



# your *London* fact sheet

**GETTING THERE:** From the United States, the easiest way to get to London is to arrive by plane to London Heathrow (LHR). An alternate airport is London Gatwick (LGW).

**LANGUAGE:** London is culturally diverse with more than 100 languages spoken throughout the city. However, English is the most common language spoken by most Londoners.

**CLIMATE:** London has mild winters and temperate summers. The average daytime air temperature is 52° F (11° C), with 42° F (5.5° C) in January and 65° F (18° C) in July. Statistics show that the sun shines, however briefly, on five days out of six.

**MONEY/CURRENCY:** The main currency in London is the pound sterling. Visa and Mastercard are the most common credit cards accepted in London. American Express and Discover are less commonly accepted.

**ELECTRICITY:** The voltage in Great Britain is 220/240 AC, 50Hz. Electrical plugs have three rectangular pins and take fuses of 3, 5 and 13 amps. Visitors from abroad will need an adaptor for appliances that have been brought from home, such as laptops, hairdryers, and phone chargers.

## 5 FAST FACTS

1. Big Ben is not the name for the iconic tower in London. It is the name of the clock that is in the tower.
2. London has 170 museums. Which ones are worth checking out? Consult your travel advisor.
3. The iconic red buses in London were not originally that color. The buses used to be different colors that indicated their routes.
4. Nearly 9 million people live in London.
5. The London Underground, or "Tube" is the oldest underground railway network in the world.





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## 4 ITEMS TO PACK

1. Comfortable walking shoes. With an excellent public transportation system, there's no need to get a rental car. However, you will do a lot of walking as you explore this historic city.
2. Raincoat or umbrella for those occasional London rainy days.
3. Electrical adapters for all your electronics, hairdryer, etc. London's power system is different than that of the United States and requires the use of power adapters.
4. Backpack. You'll be out and about touring the city and taking day trips. So, a backpack is a must to carry essentials for the day.

## TOURS/EXCURSION IDEAS

1. Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace
2. Crown Jewels
3. Sherlock Holmes Museum
4. Warner Brothers Studio Tour (for Harry Potter fans)
5. City Bus Tours
6. Jack the Ripper evening walking tour
7. Cruise/day trip up River Thames to Greenwich.
8. Afternoon tea at the Ritz or Harrod's
9. British Museum
10. Natural History Museum
11. Imperial War Museum
12. Day trip to Stonehenge and Bath
13. Day trip to Oxford
14. Day trip to Highclere Castle (for Downton Abbey fans)
15. Catch a show in London's Theatre District, often known as the West End

*Enjoy your trip!*

